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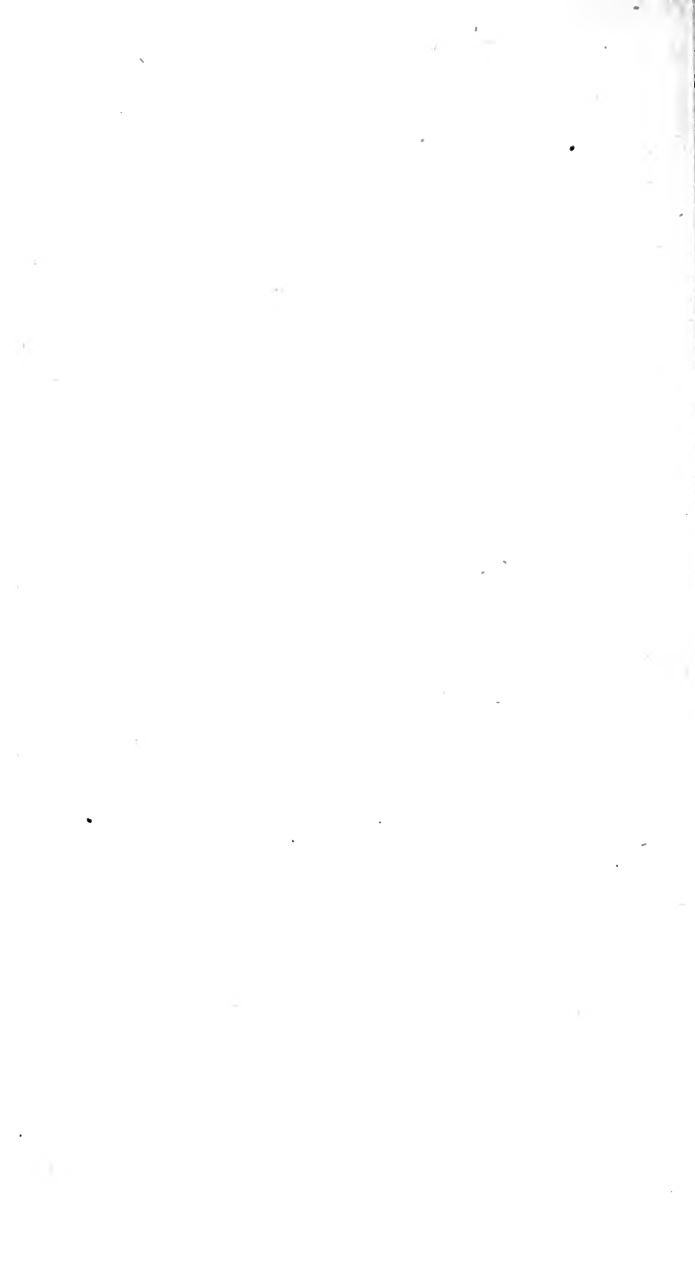
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Thos. Bristlethwaite

MEMOIRS
OF
A MAN OF FASHION.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

INCLUDING
Anecdotes
OF
MANY CELEBRATED PERSONS,
WITH WHOM HE HAD
INTERCOURSE AND CONNEXION.

"Blame where you must—be candid where you can."

JOHNSON.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES,
PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1821.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY B. CLARKE, WELL STREET.

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DEDICATION.

*To Lord ****.*

My dear Lord,

Many years ago, for the first time, and very frequently since, you have importuned me to publish my life, as one which would exhibit vast variety—infinite vicissitude, and, you were pleased to say, much interest, because its meridian was passed in courts and in courtly circles, amongst polished knights and ladies bright, and in the very centre of bustle, gay adventure, and intrigue. I always (as you recollect) refused, because I hate notoriety, although it has been through life my doom, and because, when once done,

“Nescit vox missa reverti.”

Circumstances, very unnecessary to

be stated, have altered my firm resolve; and I cannot think of giving my errors and adventures to the world, without dedicating them to you; first, because you were the cause of my bringing them forward; and, secondly, because in them *you* may say, "*Quorum pars magna fui.*" The distant remembrances of past pleasure are far the dearest to me; they glow at this moment fresh and warm in my heart; my eye seeks them, as the traveller's glance fondly dwells upon the gilded perspective of a summer's evening, when the sun, sunk below the horizon, leaves the train of his expiring radiancy behind him—a radiance rendered more interesting by its soft and mellow tints; more captivating, because we fear to lose it; and to the last glimmer of whose soft light memory clings, until both memory and it sink and expire together.

In these affectionate reminiscences,

your social converse, your friendship, ever at hand in hour of trial, your sympathies corresponding with my own, nay, even our boyish tricks, our academic follies, our college *schemes* form no inconsiderable part. Happy days, no more! when “Jeune, je cultivais les muses; il n’y a rien de plus poétique, dans la fraîcheur de ses passions, qu’un cœur de seize années: le matin de la vie est comme le matin du jour, plein de pureté, d’images et d’harmonies.”

But a truce to moralizing. When this work meets your eyes, you will smile, and give me credit for neither having named your Lordship nor myself. The period which these memoirs embrace you will find to be the twenty-five years which have rolled away, from our leaving college until the last peace—eventful period, at which we well may say--

Eheu fugaces, Postume, Postume,
Labuntur anni.

Yet, as my dream of life has rather been a gilded one, and as I am neither old enough, nor wicked enough, to fly from its remembrance, that period will not be like the sad complainings of old age,

“ Difficilis, querulus, laudator temporis acti ;”

but rather the faithful narration of a man in the prime of life, whose faculties unimpaired neither tinge his picture with too much gloom, nor varnish it over with the high colouring of imperfect memory supplied by fiction, fond of the past.

Believe me,

My dear Lord,

Fin alle cenere,

Your's, most truly,

THE AUTHOR.

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INTRODUCTION.

A VERY few words of introduction suffice in offering this work to the public. Its object is utility ; its hope, amusement ; its contents, a mass of truth. I am well aware that it cannot be so interesting to strangers, as to men of my own day, who have been living, and who do still live, in the fashionable world ; yet the present always borrows interest from the past ; and the cautions which may be found necessary for the future would be unavailing, were they not justified by experience. Man is always the same in every age. Forms and fashions vary ; but our passions, our feelings, and our interests, are unchangeable.

A knowledge of the world and of mankind is seldom highly prized, unless bought at a high price ; but where personal suffering, personal disappointment, and personal disgust, are to constitute a part of the purchase-money, the bargain is dear indeed. In a ludicrous French dramatic piece, entitled “ *Le Sourd, ou l’Auberge pleine,*” Monsieur D’Anieres, a stupid character, is made to say to his audience, that before he went to Paris and bought wit, *J’étais bête a faire plaisir* ; but that, afterwards, he bought plenty of wit and of experience ; and that when these commodities had cost him a hundred guineas, he cries, affrighted at the price,

“ Tenez ; voilà assez d’esprit.”

It would be unnecessary to state how little *esprit* can be purchased in

London for that price: and as the author of the present Memoirs has witnessed a great variety of scenes in high life, intrigues of courts, intrigues of cabinets, and intrigues in drawing-rooms, and in *boudoirs*, with a multiplicity of sporting and greeking transactions, abroad and at home, an outline or sketch of his life for the last twenty-five years must present much novel matter.

It has been his deepest regret, that the fascinations of fashion, and allurements of pleasure, have engrossed so much of his time, and consumed such extensive property as has fallen to his share; and that, led astray by those enchantments, he has not, hitherto, been more useful to his fellow-creatures. If the warning which his errors may furnish, and the experience which his intercourse with the world may afford,

prove beneficial, it will be a matter of heart-felt consolation to him.

Life is often represented as a dream ; but very different in nature are the sleep-walkers of this world. Fevered, fanciful, and eventful, have been some of our dreams ; whilst a dead torpor has been the lot of others.

“ *Ficta voluptatis causâ sint proxima veris,*”

is an old and approved maxim. The present Memoirs go still further : truth dwells in every page ; and if transposition of time or place, disguise or alteration of name or character, friendly mitigation or partial concealment, has any where occurred, the parties concerned will be aware of the honorable motives which have actuated the writer.

MEMOIRS

OF

A MAN OF FASHION.

CHAPTER I.

ANECDOTES of our childhood, interesting as they may appear to ourselves, are generally tedious to others ; I shall therefore pass over that period of my life, as well as the boyish days in which I was *τυπτω*-ing it with a tutor : and of my collegiate career I shall only say, that I used to learn every thing which was not necessary, made verses,

lampooned big-wigs, broke windows and lamps, and spent half my time in hunting and in horse-racing; whilst a gay milliner and a strolling actress touched my heart-strings and purse-strings: and of each it might truly be observed, that

“ Whilst I thought her a goddess, she thought me a fool ;

“ And I’ll swear she was most in the right.”

Yet, I must say, that during the season in which I was most deceived, in which illusions were brightest, and fables passed in my heated brain for substantial realities, I was happier than I have ever been since. Take the bandeau from the eyes of love, and divest Venus of her zone, tear the mysterious veil from promised enjoyment, banish

the crimson blush, the down-cast eye, the pearly tear, the mutual pressure of the hand, the thrilling fever, and the fearful glance—the doubt, the anxiety, and dread—and love ceases to be love—Venus is no longer a divinity—at least, so I have ever thought and felt.

I came out in life just at the period when a most illustrious personage was sharing domestic bliss with the lovely full-blown rose which he first wore in his bosom. From that circumstance, and through that channel, I first had the honor of knowing one, whom I ever after considered as the most polished man in the world.

This meteor of perfection, this son

of fashion, had the most fascinating manners which ever fell to the share of monarch or of man; a smile which seemed to have been kindled in the heart before it expanded on the lip, a kindly expression which warmed all around him, a playfulness of wit and familiar discourse, which drew every affection towards him, a facility of delivering himself in all polished languages, which made him fit to be the king of gentlemen.

Such was then his attachment, that he seemed a private individual prepossessingly doing the honors of his cara's parties—like the best of husbands, and the most domesticated of subjects. He had, a little time before, endeared

himself to every thinking mind by honorable retrenchments, cheerful self-denials, and by a submission to harsh family censure. Young and old were then at his feet : but the scene changed. I do not mean to say that the hero of the scene ceased to shine, ceased to be amiable, or failed to command admiration ; but that the actors were changed, views were less bright, prospects vanished, and insidious enemies played their parts in the grand drama in question.

As to my own situation in life, I was now running full tilt my gay and ruinous career. The death of my father left me, at an early age, an entailed property of two thousand pounds per

annum, in the northern part of England, tied up by every possible precaution that prudence and law could suggest: and it was my sole study to untie and to part with it as fast as possible.

Aided, therefore, by my serviceable friends, black D——(not the devil), Jew Rex, old drunken M— (more knave than fool), and a score of money scrivener, procurers, usurers, and collaterally signing friends, I managed to spend eight thousand per annum for three years, by the speedy ruin of granting annuities to the wood merchants, soi-disant brokers, Israelite tradesmen, and miser gentlemen, who let out their money thus, doubling their capital in six or seven years, and frequently ruining

their man in half the time. I found fellows who had been in India, and who had made decent fortunes there, come home and double them by these honorable and conscientious means; nay, even ladies (a Mrs. E. in particular) who, having served Cupid as mercenary votaries, dedicate their silver locks, and wrinkled remnant of life, to the worship of Mammon.

I had also the resource of pulling down an old family mansion, and basely selling the materials to pay my New-market debts, of ploughing up my park, and leaving the poor squirrels of my woods not a twig to light upon, in order to pay my debts of honor contracted at Mrs. S.'s in St. James's Square (whose

son was in the Guards), at Mr. Concanister's, and to a suicide lord, who, with a *crafty* banker, kept a gambling shop in Pall-mall. But then I had the supreme felicity of having four horses on the turf, of being thought quite *comme il faut*, and of being last in a sweepstakes (riding my own horse) in the respectable company of Sir John Jehu, the Ex-colonel Eclipse, the Honorable D—— Bolter, et cetera.

Then again my house was the very cream of well-appointed things, exhibiting in its appearance a masquerade, and often, in its noise and confusion of tongues, the tower of Babel. I had a French cook, an Italian valet-de-chambre, a German porter, English coach-

man and grooms, an Irish housemaid, *rader good-lucking*, and an Ethiopian footman. French ladies in abundance honored my festive board with their presence, and artists of all nations attended my levee; for I had a mighty notion of shining above the herd; and I took lessons of Vestris, of Angelo, of Lanza, of language-masters, and even of Astley, in order to vault into my saddle at my door, to the surprise and admiration of passing Cyprians, who threw an approving glance, or a gilt card of address, to cheer me in my morning ride, about four o'clock, P. M.

To perfect my taste, I purchased busts, pictures, medals, and antiquities,

in abundance, giving immense sums for counterfeits ; and I was a most valued customer to the eloquent knight of the hammer, Mr. C——, whose descriptive faculties could embellish, or even create, any thing, converting the view of a gibbet into a “ hanging wood,” a bleak hill into a “ commanding prospect,” a miserable hovel into “ a romantic retreat,” a citizen’s vulgar villa at Mile-end, in all the muck and smoke carried to it from the city, into a “ most desirable cottage orné, exhibiting and combining all the pleasures and advantages of a *rus in urbe* ;” and so forth. Poor C. ! he was, nevertheless, a good creature.

The imperious queen of my inclinations at this juncture was Lady Eliza-

beth Volcano, whose flame was the most ardent and consuming which I ever felt. Daughter of an Irish earl, she had all the warmth and rashness of her country; and, travelled and most eminently accomplished, she had made herself a complete mistress of arts. Gentle and prepossessing in her manners, she was, nevertheless, the most stormy charmer whom I have ever known. If irritated, or jealous, she would rush upon you like a whirlwind, and carry all before her; nor was she more regardless of personal danger than she was incautious in her weapons, or in her attacks upon others. Early in life, she hanged herself for love and jealousy of Lord C——, then a beau--now the poorest remains of manly appearance and of style which I ever saw: but---

“How many a lad I have lov’d is dead,
“How many a lass grown old!”

Some years after, she attempted to destroy herself by opium; and, subsequently, to drown herself. She married a very amiable man at first, who shall be nameless from respect. She then fancied the 16th Lt. Dragoons, out of which to select a gay cornet. Divorce had taken place previously to this fancy, and from another cause. She then married the bold dragoon; and bold he was, for it is hard to say which of them had the most frequent victories in their numerous assaults *de part et d'autre*. Her ladyship after brought matters to a *point*, knife in hand; and the *militaire* used some knock-down arguments, in order to bring back matters to the *status quo ante bellum*.

They soon separated by mutual consent ; and, after honoring me by a marked preference, which crowned her wishes, we had a quarrel, which immediately caused us to part : for returning from shooting one day, she misconceived the game which I had been after, pounced upon me like the eagle on the dove, and, catching the powder-flask from my side, flung it into a large fire, and very nearly blew off the top of the cottage, whilst we both saved ourselves by flight in different directions. Never shall I forget this my first flame.

My male companions, at this time, were the Copper Colonel Hardy, “ *puellis nuper idoneus*,” the late Lord B—, Colonel H—, Sir J— S—, that most

perfect and amiable model of the old school, Lord B—, now a marquis, *cum multis aliis*. The Copper Colonel, who perished in a duel, was a very great favorite of the first subject in England; whether from being a good and pleasant, although dreadfully hasty fellow, or from having a very pretty sister, I do not pretend to decide: but certain it is, that the illustrious friend would send Mr. H. (her husband), to vote in the lower house at late hours, and used kindly to prevent the loneliness of his wife by the warmest attentions—but *brisons là*. Poor H— is no more; and the rose is withering apace on the fair cheek of its once bewitching possessor.

From these companions I learned a

great deal. The peer B. gave me a taste for theatricals; the Copper Colonel a turn for hoaxing and quizzing; and I had the honor of dining for the first time in the stone jug, alias a prison, with the other lord, now raised to the marquise. His lordship at that “present writing was not worth a rap,” but was heir to an immense property. The state of his (then) affairs was—three country houses, a pack of hounds, about sixty horses, a sultana, about one hundred creditors, and his establishment, where I dined most merrily with him and a brace of attornies and money-lenders, two guardsmen, and a fellow-prisoner.

It has been this unfortunate, impru-

dent, but good-natured peer's lot, never to extricate himself from difficulties since. He was bitten, it is said, by a may-fly: if this were really the case, the love-puncture was soon cured: at all events, she was sweetly attractive. *Chacun a son goût.* She might have pleased any one.

From private theatricals, I cast a longing eye on public performances, and was enchanted by one who figured in the scenic art. Her I considered as a fourth grace, as a tenth muse, as a paragon of perfection. I beau'd her home from rehearsal and performance, ministered to her extravagances, and got acquainted with a score of performers, in whose society I have been most

happy, and of whom I never have had to complain. Madame, however, was a loadstone to gold and trinkets; and I overdrew my banker considerably on her account. Luckily for me, she proved false. Her fidelity might have been fatal: but, such was my rage, my despair, and my disappointment, that I ranted and upbraided in all languages, and in all tones of prose, of verse, of rhyme, but not of reason.

My love fever lasted a few weeks; and I was cured of it by the arrival of two unknown brothers-in-law, John Doe and Richard Roe, who, at the suit of a man-milliner, presumed to take my personal security for two hundred pounds. This last favor I owed to my

theatrical female friend. My farrier bailed me, probably because I was thus *nailed*; whose son, by the bye, has since appeared as a very gentleman-like buck at Cambridge, and is now pulpit-thumping with success in some county of England. A great many melancholy reflections followed this affair; for, as with women, *ce n'est que le premier pas qui coute*; so when a fellow of fashion in town gets callous to these *touching* scenes, he goes to *rack* as fast as a horse after a stiff day's hunting.

CHAPTER II.

I began now to reflect that I was paying to my annuitants four hundred pounds per annum more than the produce of my rent-roll; that my wood had disappeared, as well as my house; and although I was pretending to build another, that was a mere foundation for my creditors to build their hopes upon; that servants looked sulky; and bills as long as snipes' flew in every direction on my breakfast table.

In this dilemma, I sent for Ned

Nimble, who, from having been a gentleman at college, and afterwards spent his fortune, had turned his hand to many avocations; and was now a kind of middle man or agent betwixt the usurer and the necessitous rake. He gave me great consolation in my afflictions; assuring me that every man of fashion, from the prince to the private gentleman, was involved; that an illustrious personage kept company with a jeweller on account of his long-winded tick; that all the nobility were annuitized and mortgaged up to the ears; that placemen made appointments to cover their debts; that Earl M—'s kites were selling all over the city at twenty per cent. below par; that the Honorable D. B. never was without an execution

in his house ; and that, in one word, I was only in the fashion.

He taught me that a very great man indeed, in conjunction with subaltern agents, used to raise the wind by furnishing his splendid mansion from abroad, as well as from upholsterers at home, and then sold off and began a-fresh, after a few exhibitions of taste in the furniture line ; that there were tradesmen who sold you goods for long-winded bills, to re-sell ; and that, D. B. and Sir F. G. had had two squadron of horses, and a whole repository full of carriages, in their possession, within a year, which refitted their finances at only cent. per cent. loss. This he called *bill-doing* ; and he re-

commended me to a leather breeches-maker, to a bankrupt wine-merchant, and a dozen others, for this purpose.

I was now favored by a visit from the Duke of Horsemagog, and another from Sir John Jehu; the former to purchase a horse, the latter to pick out all my secrets. He consoled me much, by assuring me that my debts were a milk-score; that the marquis, then Lord B. owed one hundred thousand pounds; and that he himself sold a most valuable property for fifteen thousand pounds before he was of age, merely to pay debts for carriages, harness, and saddlery, and had since parted with property for an old song, just to keep up the stable, which was

worth at least thirty thousand pounds, in the Borough : nay, at this moment worth double the money.

This appeared very dashing and spirited to me ; and I began to be ashamed of only owing ten thousand pounds more than I was worth.

The baronet gave me an invitation to dine the next day ; and I anticipated a pleasant party. It rather unluckily occurred, that a tailor, who had previously worn out the knocker of my door by kind inquiries as to when I could make it convenient to pay, and who had been surlily answered by my unpaid German porter, thought fit to take *new measures*, and to arrest me.

Out of this scrape, an amiable lord, who shall be nameless, and who was my college companion, extricated me by paying the money—the most efficient and proper way of assisting a friend. I have often done this myself; but I never met with such firm and disinterested service from any one but him; and from him I have received kindnesses *iterum iterumque*.

The dinner-party at Sir John's was numerous. Amongst the crowd was Captain Chanticleer, then a half-pay ensign, and the brother of a public singer, but since a most prominent character in one of the first cavalry regiments in the service, and afterwards on the staff with the army of observa-

tion, commonly called the army of occupation. Paddy Chanticleer has a delightful voice, enriched by humour and a thick brogue, and highly set off by impudence and coarse native humour.

He was *nobody* at that time; and some of the guests then present recollected paying a few shillings to hear him sing, on an obscure stage in his beautiful country; but now, that Pat is a man of war, he remembers no more of these scenes than the man in the moon, or any moony relative or whiskey-shedman of his quondam acquaintance, nor than a *stationary* lieutenant, of asinine countenance, did of his overturning him on a trip to Richmond, when he could not believe that

he lost three thousand pounds to a dear countryman of Pat's, who came in, all on purpose by accident, to drink many happy returns of the day to the wondering Johnny Raw, whose birth-day Pat and the simpleton went out to celebrate, tête-à-tête. But more of Paddy and his pranks hereafter.

Jew Rex was another worthy of the party, with the antiquated countess he married; Lord B. who lived by rule, i. e. a day rule; the honourable D. B.; a foreign countess, of whom more hereafter; Joe Doubledeal; and a host of turf gentlemen.

Lady Jehu looked like a Virgin of the Sun in red resplendence. The in-

fluence of her ladyship's rays had warmed many a heart. She too, like singing Paddy, had been in the public line, but it was not on the same stage. Here, lest a blush should out-rouge the rouge on her once attractive cheek, should she peruse this work, we will drop the curtain—it has been dropped before—and in justice to her charms, *soit dit en passant*, that she now is a good wife, and bids fair for blooming like a second *Ninon de L'Enclos*.

Lord B——'s wife, of low extraction, and related to the lady at the head of the table, was also in the circle, but ever lovely and ever chaste, however surrounded by or grouped with Paphian frail ones.

The wine, the wit, the stable-talk, and the adventures of the kennel, drove merrily on until a late hour, during which period I made a great many matches for my racers, all of which I lost. In one instance I was beaten, by paying forfeit from seizure of my brown horse by Diamond, at the instance of a money-lender present; and the feeling Jew lent me what was necessary to lose upon all the other matches. Was there any playing of booty? *Je n'en sais rien.*

At a very *small* hour, we broke up; and some of the most desperate of us adjourned to St. James's Street, to a common hell, where I am quite frightened at recollecting a very gross epithet

applied by me, with a damn, to a youngster in his Plutonian father's house, but who has now grown into a general officer and a member of parliament, doubtless from the fair dealing of the house, and from *one for the others*, and, *après*, the double aces and throwings out of this diabolical roof. The *rouge et noir* was, however, an encouragement to a military life; and the seat in parliament is a proof that "the colour wins."

From this cavern we posted to others; and in one Colonel H. broke the bank, which was unfortunate for me; for it gave me an itch for play, which cost me fifteen thousand pounds at a subsequent period.

The rescue of some loose fish caught in a watchman's net, the breaking of an attorney's windows in Golden-square, and our being beaten in a milling match with some skylarking butchers, finished the evening ; for some of us were pupils of Mendoza, the miller of his day : and the Duke of Horse-magog, then sailing *east-on*, to rack of purse and person, greatly encouraged the gem'men of the art, since nobly named the Fancy. I now found my way to my bed, felt my pockets empty, my stomach surcharged with wine, and some bitter reflections floating in my cranium, mixed up with vapours, and confused by a sort of waking dream.

I was now encumbered beyond de-

scription, and was getting in debt at the rate of about one hundred pounds per week ; whilst my paper was circulating round the town, as briskly as if I had been the firm of a provincial bank. I had goods of all descriptions set down to me in invoices ; most of which I never saw ; I had ironmongers, slop-sellers, wine-merchants, brokers, and money-scriveners, all in my custom. Grates, crockery, household furniture, wine, spirits, and linen, were charged to my account ; a sham sale was made of them ; and the proceeds just kept my servants and my stud, whilst a succession of tradesmen clad and fed me ; and a horse or two, knocked off my establishment and replaced, kept my pocket, and defrayed my subscriptions

at White's, the Cocoa-Tree, and New-market.

Dining one day with D. B. I was a little surprised to see in the person of one of his many liverymen at table a John Doe, who had placed an *epaulet* on my shoulder some time before. He perceived that the thing struck me; and the next day, at Tattersal's, he took me aside, and proposed a tête-à-tête dinner at the Piazza Coffee-house, where I got acquainted with Duke Primus, of whom I shall speak hereafter.

During dinner, my friend put me up to a number of new things, and pitied my innocence exceedingly. He told me that arrests were all bagatelles; that

there were accommodating, fashionable attornies and bailiffs, as well as fashionable cyprians and coach-makers ; that a man might carry on the war with splendour, with a brace of disguised bailiffs in the house on executions ; and that as for personal arrest, a stylish bailiff would tip you the wink when there were actions against you, and all you had to do was, either to send him a twenty pound note, and to go out of town for a short time, or to purchase Jew bail, and go to his house, settling the action, and palming him for his decency and good breeding. "Then," said he, "my boy, the whole may be wound up by a lucky hit, a well managed race, or a matrimonial engagement."

I went home delighted with what I had learned, and most faithfully followed his instructions. The next night I went to the route of Lady —, wife to a high military character in St. James's Square. The room was crowded with beauty and fashion; but the three graces, who then bore the bell, were Lady Charlotte C——, Lady Augusta her sister, and Lady Emily H——. What a pity that flowers so fair should ever fade! I was, on this occasion, introduced to the lovely Duchess of —, who gave me an invitation to hunt with her son; and I shall hereafter detail the hospitality and gallantry of her noble mansion, and give the history of *les Veillées du Chateau*, and *les petits talons*. As I

owed a bet to Sir John S——, I called in at White's to pay it, lost more than I had, gave a memorandum of I. O. U. and was indebted to my dear Lord —— for the means of paying it next day.

A street row called my attention on my way home; I stopped my vis-a-vis, and got into the thick of it; and here I formed a friendship with the Honourable George Suspender, since a peer, one of the best hands to clear a street, or to put the ragamuffins to flight, I ever met with.

At fist and cudgel, honest George strikes his colours to none; at small and broad sword, he can manfully take his part; he'll ride down any man,

and out-talk the devil. I do not know how many hundred men he ran through like larks upon a spit, with his friend General T——; and some say that they ate them! He is no bad hand at a bow; and is at that (the long one) only beaten by Colonel Thornville Royal.

The Honourable George is adored in St. Giles's, known in Newgate, hand and glove with one or two unfortunate highway-men (during their confinement be it understood), and popular with all the world. George could drink, fight, make love, hunt, gamble, and catch rats. Strange qualifications for an heir to a Peerage! He also set up a Faro bank, which I nick-named the Green-stall, on account of a sleeping partner of that

name in the concern ; but George was, and is, too good a fellow to make money by play ; and whilst P——s, and W——s, and T——, &c. all made fortunes by similar speculations, honest George introduced himself to a prison.

I now staked a great deal of borrowed money on a race ; but, failing there, I sold my racers, and made a temporary retreat to the country-house of a nabob, whose wife, a Presbyterian, now living not one hundred miles from Stratford-place, honored me with a preference, which flattered me greatly at the time, but which has since appeared to me more of the pot-luck fare of a friendly and of a hospitable roof, of a freehearted and liberal hostess. We used to have de-

sultory sermons and impromptu prayers every night, and a great deal of neighbourly love every morning. In the homily line, the duties of father and of husband, of mother and of wife, were enlarged upon by the lady, who was always our lecturer. She read well, and detailed these duties in the order above stated—doubtless it was in that form and succession that she learned them herself. Here I met with Sir C. B. who was then a retired spendthrift, and since that period turned out a penurious rich man.

Old Trincomalee, the nabob, grew jealous, and I grew fickle. The former circumstance drove me from — Park ; but no time has ever driven Madame

from my grateful remembrance; and she may receive this avowal as a tribute of my highest consideration. Colonel D. I believe, succeeded me in her good will; but *n'importe*. I know not at present “*cui flavam religat comam.*” She has my best wishes for success in all her undertakings.

When I returned to London, I meditated on new furnishing my house, and on disposing of the old furniture to pay my perfumer, the celebrated and very honest, liberal and ticking Mr. Smith; but a Jew broker had *shaved* me the *troblish*, having shaved my apartments as clean as an oyster could be picked. Whilst I got new furniture into my house, I was obliged to go to

the Royal Hotel, where I was astonished by a visit from one of those A. B. or X. Y. advertising agents, who, knowing the difficulties in which I was plunged, came, kind soul ! without any interest, to offer me his poor services. He is by birth a West Briton, by education a rogue, by profession an attorney.—Through him I learned that all my annuitants were rascals, that there was a flaw in all the indentures tripartite, that my bill-doers were usurers, that other claimants had committed perjury in swearing to unjust debts, and, finally, he engaged to bring me through and set me up, clear of incumbrance, in the best possible form, only requiring an advance of one hundred pounds, to defray part of the expenses of contending

with this host of foes. I gave him a brace of hundreds, by parting with my carriage and horses, and by jobbing to replace the appearance of my turn out.

My attorney-friend now became a prime favourite. He bailed me in sixteen actions; and enabled me to go about as free as air, and to attend the Beef-steak club, and other merry meetings. At the former, I got acquainted with C—— M——, and improved my acquaintance with Duke Primus. They were both characters: the latter is lately no more; the former still occasionally presides at

“The fancy stirring bowl.”

In Duke Primus's character there

was a great mixture of magnanimity and of meanness, of selfishness and of generosity. Independent in spirit, he certainly possessed the virtue of patriotism; but inwardly covetous of honour, of riches, and of power, no man of his fortune ever did less good. He did, indeed, a few very generous things, but no charitable ones. He buried a great deal of money in useless and ostentatious buildings; and hoarded up a great deal more which might have gladdened the heart of the widow and of the orphan.

Low and gross in his appetites, he sought for the enjoyments of the tender passion in garrets and cellars, in mire and rags. A romantic Cinderella, raked

from the kennel, had more charms for him than the fairest of the fair. His wishes were never *crowned*, half-a crown being the Duke's ultimatum in love. At table he was a great *bon vivant* ; and his thirst and appetite were equally surprising. No man did the honours of his table better ; and I have often heard him say that a good dinner could not last too long, nor a bad one be over too soon.

The character of C—— M—— is too well known to need a comment. His compositions also are sufficient to give his history. There is in them, as in him, a great mixture of solid masculine talent, a sympathetic delicacy of

feeling, a tender overflowing of the heart, with ever and anon a justness of conclusion and a morality of reflection, which form striking contrasts with the blaze of his wit, frolic, and sensuality. Charles has seen too much of the world to prize it, and too much of the heart of man to trust it. He unbends at the festive board ; but he relapses in solitude and in sober hours into the gloom of a reflective mind, which has seen the disappointments and vanities of life again and again. “ You would take me,” said he to me one day, “ for the prince of all dissipation ; I am, nevertheless, a man of the most saturnine habits.” I consider that Duke Primus used him ill in not leaving him a handsome legacy.

At my levee, I was favored with a visit from my A. B. friend, who assured me that my concerns were going on marvellously well. He so praised every thing I said and did, that he almost convinced me that I was the eighth wonder of the world. He informed me that law-suits were long, although mine were sure of success: hinted that a little more ready money would be useful; and proposed to me a wife, having a ready-made one at my service that would fit me as well as new, an elderly spinster, whose character had experienced a flaw, but with a lap full of money. He perceived that I looked indignant, and then promised to find out a better article; taking my acceptance for two hundred more.

My rage now subsided into tranquillity: I seriously began to think of selling myself, and was only anxious as to the taking up of my bills. I paraded myself before the glass, approved very much of my own appearance, and resolved to bring myself to market to the best advantage. "Every thing," said I to myself, "is sold in London; virtue, modesty, principle, elegance, opinion, religion, and politics." Then why should I not dispose of myself, so as to insure, as my friend, the late Mr. Longwind, used to say, "Indemnity for the past, and security for the future?" I anxiously longed for my active friend's return, whose versatility of talent seemed to hold out so much resource. At this moment he entered my room. My

prime minister now commenced his gross flattery, in such a way, indeed, that I ought to have reflected with the Spaniard, that

“ Sospechoso voy — Quererme,

“ Y sin conocerme honrarme

“ Mas parece sabornarme

“ Honor, que favorecerme.”

FROM THE ESTRELLA DE SEVILLA.

“ These sudden favors with mistrust I view ;

“ Why should he love the man he never knew ?

“ Such honors savor more of bribes than
needs,

“ To gain my virtue, than reward my deeds.”

But I was blind to my own imperfections, and quite alive to the voice of flattery, gross, low, and out of bounds and reason as it was. He had now found a second matrimonial connexion

for me, a Jewess, with a very large fortune ; and he insisted that I should begin courting immediately, certain that my manners and appearance would carry the day. He added, that I ought to mention my estate, and produce the rent-roll, but keep the annuities in the back ground. If, however, any of them should be discovered, he would undertake to forge a receipt, as if it were paid off, but had been left, by mistake, yet registered. Then he would draw out titles to other properties not in existence, particularly in Ireland, and in the West Indies ; and so blind the Jewess's eyes. He proposed introducing me to her at a concert, and concluded by giving me a paper to sign, by which I undertook to pay him ten thousand

pounds on my marriage with this daughter of Israel, or any other person he could procure.

We now parted: I took my usual ride, borrowed a little loose cash of the waiter at the club-house, and came home to dress for dinner at Captain ——'s, late of the Guards. Captain —— had set up a very elegant house in Baker Street, with every corresponding appointment. His whole establishment was completely *comme il faut*; yet his fortune was spent, his commission was sold, and he had lately made a compromise with his numerous creditors. His ways and means seemed impenetrable to me: yet was he visited by all

the fashion in town, and had a box at the Opera. His wife, a most accomplished woman, did the honors of the table in a very engaging and superior manner; and, notwithstanding all this, he neither played, nor was his wife's good name ever breathed upon by the lips of slander. One circumstance, however, which occurred that day, made me suspect that he had some secret resource, and induced me to make inquiries, which led to a discovery of his plans.

Just before dinner, he said to me, "George, I'll place you at dinner by the side of a rich heiress, about whom I will talk to you to-morrow. She is not absolutely handsome; but she is

uncommonly agreeable." "And good tempered?" added I, in a low tone of voice; "for I never saw an unmarried woman on the list of promotion who was not good tempered until she got married, nor an ugly woman who had not great qualifications of mind: but which is she?" He shewed me by a sign, unperceived by the company, a young woman of good figure, with a very white skin, but a face deplorably mawled by the ravages of the small pox, and a black patch under her ear, intended to conceal symptoms of inflammation, which were, nevertheless, too conspicuous. "You'll like her vastly," added he, "when you are better acquainted:" and at this moment the folding doors were thrown open,

and a puppy of a butler announced that dinner was served up.

I attached myself to my cribbage-faced friend, because I saw every one else paired off like doves in a cage ; and I never observed more symptoms of amatory disposition on a Valentine's day amongst the feathered tribe, than at this dinner party.

Lord C—, now a marquis, a man of great prowess in the *champ de Venus*, was placed next a very lovely woman, whose husband was in India, whence she had arrived for the benefit of her health ; and his lordship appeared to do every thing for her amusement in the absence of her *caro sposo*.

On the other side of Mrs. — was a boarding-school miss of exquisite beauty, paired with a Lincolnshire squire of immense property, just of age, just from college, and as rude and uncultivated a plant as ever grew in a fen.

Sir G. J. and Mrs. D. were placed side by side. The lady was then another's, but has since been united to the baronet. If we may believe the *fama clamosa* of that day, there has been no great difference in their family arrangements before and since their nuptial ceremony was performed.

A faded beauty, highly rouged, sat on

one side of our host, to whom he was uncommonly attentive.

A poor relation of his own was placed by old Colonel Benares, a nabob of great wealth; and she seemed to play off every *agacerie* of a country kitten, full of archness and frolic, and bent upon sport. The old fellow pursued her about like a grey tom-cat, and was supremely ridiculous. Every other couple was equally judiciously placed.

Our host seemed to divide his attentions, and to foster and nourish the different flames which glowed round the festive board, by well-timed eulogies and sly remarks, in a most masterly manner. He praised his young cousin's

heart, her sprightliness and sensibility, and he plied old Benares so with Champagne, that the pulse of his passion was at least one hundred and fifty per minute ; and the surface of his purple complexion was above fever heat. He looked approvingly at the peer and his adorata ; significantly at me and my new conquest ; whilst he bantered the green-horn squire, and tried to give notoriety to his attentions to the boarding-school miss ; adding, at the same time, the stimulus of wine, and well-turned compliments on the beauty and accomplishments of the squire's neighbour at table, and observing how happy he was to be thus situated.

The dinner went off admirably. We

had turtle, venison, and every rarity of the season, with the choicest wines ; but I could discover, from hints and returnings of thanks, that the peer and the nabob had furnished the turtle and venison, and that other presents had found their way to the captain's larder. Mrs. ——— was nothing short of captivating in doing the honours of her house ; and every one went away delighted with her courtliness and becoming ease.

I was almost too late for the concert, but just in time to get introduced to the Jewess. I found my prime minister in an agony of expectation. He had, however, paved my way by eulogizing me *usque ad sidera* ; and he could

scarcely conceal his raptures, when I gave him an opportunity to introduce me. As I was “hot with the Tuscan grape,” and deep in debt, I considered that no time was to be lost. I calculated to a nicety the first heavy demand which would come against me; and I measured the duration of my love-siege accordingly. Indeed, I resolved to draw the enemy out at once, or to storm her out-works. I accordingly fired shot and shell that night, quoted Italian, Spanish, Latin, and French, tattered Milton to pieces, to make happy selections from it, such as—

“Grace was in all her steps, heaven in her eye,” &c.

Then, when she dropped her eye-lid

with a mock-modest look, I attacked her with

“ Occhi stelle mortale

“ Ministri de miei male, &c.

I swore that her black eyes would be the death of me, kissed her huge brown fist, pressed it to my bosom, squeezed her palm until she screamed out, frightened her old mother out of her wits by the extravagance of my conduct, but obtained permission of Rachael to visit her the next day.

“ Glorious and immortal, by all the gods!” exclaimed my delighted agent in iniquity. “ You are the first of all mankind in talent and in attraction: the day’s our own, my hero: we shall have the money shelled down in less

than a fortnight," continued he, in all the madness of golden vision. I took him home in my carriage, and we got so notoriously drunk, that two of my servants were obliged to carry him to bed, and the next day he could scarcely raise his head from off the pillow. I waked, however, in very high order for courtship; for I felt almost delirious, and had all the madness of poetry, without the inspiration.

To give me additional spirit, I put a glass of brandy into my coffee; and I resolved to gallop full speed to my dulcinea's door in Duke's Place, and to vault from my saddle like a winged Mercury; nothing doubting but that this display of my activity would do a

great deal in my favour; whilst I left old six-and-eightpence *hors de combat*, unable to sign a dozen of writs, which I gloried in. Besides, I stole a couple of these from his pocket; so that those parties were quite safe for a little time. What was my surprise, however, on perusing them, to find that one was destined for myself! He, however, accounted for this by saying, that he took it out of another lawyer's hands, and kept it in his own that it might not be executed. The truth, as I afterwards discovered, was, that he meant to give it to a brother limb to execute, was to find bail for me, and if, at any time I did not forward his mercenary views, he was to get my bail to surrender me without warning.

But to return to Rachael. She had a very fine Grecian eye, a good outline of countenance, was fat, and by no means ill-looking, barring vulgarity, and the stamp of her tribe. I made desperate love at this second interview; took very unbecoming liberties, which she suffered very indulgently; and at last I fairly popped the question to her, and obtained her promise to speak to her father and mother, and to meet me the next day in Moorfields.

Delighted with my success, I came home, and found old *habeas corpus* not yet removed. I gave him new life by my recital; kept him again to dinner; took him to make some very odd visits, turned him into ridicule, and then sent

him home in my carriage. I reeled into the Opera, got into a quarrel with a gentleman's coachman who tried to cut my vis-a-vis out, caned him (for which I had afterwards forty pounds to pay), went to W——'s to try my luck, lost all the loose cash which I had borrowed of my prime minister, gave my note for three hundred pounds, which sobered me, and walked home in a most melancholy mood.

CHAPTER III.

ON my way home I was abruptly accosted by a female of most interesting appearance. Her figure was tall and slender, but peculiarly elegant; her voice was harmonious; and she had not the least air of immodesty. She was neatly dressed; and had a pocket handkerchief in her hand, containing a small bundle. She implored me in the most pathetic accents, to respect her innocence and misfortunes, and not to conceive a bad opinion of her for being out of doors at that improper hour, alone,

unprotected, and in the street. She declared that the cold pavement, and the canopy of heaven, must, without my assistance, be her curtain and her bed ; for that she had neither home nor shelter, money nor friends. She said that she had been turned out of her lodgings at ten o'clock at night, and had wandered the streets from that hour until two ; scarcely daring to beg, and not knowing where to hide her wretched head.

I looked on her curiously, suspiciously, yet pitifully. There appeared nothing of the adventuress or mendicant, nothing of the cyprian or of the swindler, about her ; and I immediately offered her my house as an asylum,

which, upon hearing that I was a single man, she modestly declined. I then proposed that she should go to one of the inns, from which stages start at all hours ; that I should give my name and address, representing her as a respectable person, well known to me, who had been locked out of her lodgings ; and that I should deposit what would insure her respect and good treatment.

I accordingly went, and leaving my address, and a gold repeater, for I had no money, I saw cold meat and wine procured for her, and ordered a good bed to be provided, under a promise that she would breakfast there, and see me again in the morning.

On our way to the inn, in a hackney coach, she informed me that she was the daughter of a clergyman deceased ; that her father and mother were no more ; that her father, having nothing to subsist on but his living, could leave no fortune behind him ; that her four brothers had perished by the sword and destructive climates, in the army and navy ; that she had been sent as governess to a boarding-school in the west of England, and from thence went into a noble family, which she named, where she gave instructions to two young ladies, and was companion to their mother ; but that she was obliged to fly from that roof, to avoid the guilty importunities of the lady's hus-

band, and for fear of involving a family in exposure and domestic misery.

Since that period, all her endeavours to procure a situation had been unavailing: she had subsisted on the sale of her clothes; latterly, she had been buoyed up with the vain hopes of selling a novel, which she had composed; but that on that very morning the bookseller had returned it to her, pronouncing it unfit for sale; and adding, that high-flown sentiment, delicate expression, and moral maxims, in the present day, were wholly unsaleable; and that nothing but wit and scandal, or, indeed, scandal with or without wit, would answer a publisher's purpose.

She was now come to her last change of clothes, which was contained in her handkerchief; and, being in debt for a month's lodging, her barbarous hostess turned her out of doors, adding, that she must either be a fool or a woman of dishonest principle, not to make the most of her person, and to pay her just debts.

As to her future views, she told me that it was her intention, if any charitable person could give her the means, to return to her boarding-school, where her good character would insure her a welcome; and, rather to act in a menial capacity, than to owe even a fortune to the wages of infamy. I strongly applauded her noble resolution; and

assured her that she should not want a friend to promote her interest, and to rescue her from ruin.

The reflection of having done one good action, came across me like a beam of light, which cheered me under all my disappointments and difficulties. Like an angel's visit, comes self-approbation to the distracted mind; and, often in the midst of vice, or in the chequered scenes of folly and of dissipation, a generous deed humanizes an existence which would otherwise be brutal and irrational. One service rendered to unprotected woman, elevates the heart of man to the dignity of a hero. No one has felt that glow more frequently than a certain peer, who shall be nameless ;

and who, never divested of the weakness and fallibility of the man, could always come to the recover, could always lighten up life's picture by the predominance of sunshine over every shade.

I awoke with a maddening headache ; I reflected on my folly in losing the little ready money which I had, and of giving a draft, which, without the aid of my only friend, Lord —, would not be answered, I sent to invite him to dine with me that day ; but he was in love, and could not come. However, he sent me the needful, relying on my honor ; for my security was not then worth a sixpence, and I was deeply in debt to him. I would have given the

world to have remained in bed ; but I had an assignation with my Jewess, and also an act of benevolence to perform.

I returned to the inn, where I found my new friend very neatly dressed : she appeared irresistibly pleasing, and extremely modest in her deportment. After thanking me in a shower of tears, she solicited me to send her off that very day, and only required the fare of her coach. I had, however, provided otherwise ; by stepping, for the first time in my life, into a pawnbroker's shop on my way, and pledging valuables to the amount of twenty pounds ; out of which I paid the small bill at the inn, and then gave her the remainder.

I requested her address at the boarding-school, which she gave; and I assured her that I should make a subscription for her, which should rescue her from the necessity of performing any menial office, the amount of which I should enclose in a week, accompanied by a letter of most anxious inquiries after her health and happiness.

This part of my discourse had so violent an effect upon her, that, had I not supported her in my arms, she would have sunk upon the floor. Her head now fell reclined upon my shoulder; and her arm hung gracefully down in nature's powerful expression of dejection and languor. I raised her gently up, and conveyed her to a sofa, where she reclined some

seconds; and then, after many hysterical struggles, found relief at last in a deluge of tears, interrupted by deep and heavy sighs.

Let the cold-blooded moralist, and the stern professor of religion which has no pity in its creed, reason and rebuke, suspect imposture, and double-lock his hard heart against woman's tears, and against woman's frailty; let him preserve his marble brow, his iron countenance, his unblushing and unchanged features; let him clear his chest and his conscience at the same time by a hem, and pass by suffering beauty; turning a deaf ear to those chords of sympathy, which, in their vibration, rend the breast of humanity.

As for myself, inconsistent being as I am—composed of much evil, strangely mixed with some particles of good—I could, at that moment, have cast myself in devotion on the earth, and have sobbed out supplications for mercy on such a head : I could have importuned the highest throne for comfort and for a balm, for those wounds. Nay, my gay companions, sons of morning and of midnight revels, children of the sun-ray, and festive self-destroyers, to you I also confess, that although my blood galloped in my veins like the fiery chariot of day ; although every pulse throbbed with desire and admiration ; although the contact of woman's breast lit up an interest in mine which almost consumed me, and which left me no

other sensation ; yet was I ruled by the respect which manhood owes to unprotectedness ; and, if I had then one vein of my heart which could have rebelled against sacred honor, I think my hand could have let out the purple tide, and thus have purified my being. Oh ! how I wished at that time to prolong the pressure of that head upon my shoulder ; yet with what precipitation did I remove the dangerous charmer, the enchanting temptation : yes, friends, at that juncture, I could have cast my tattered fortune and myself at the dear woman's feet ; and how I, who never was out of a scrape, or disentangled from some imprudence, came to escape on that occasion, I know not. I saw her off by the coach.

My friend, Captain —, now called, who informed me that my mignonette inamorata was the only daughter of a rich sugar-baker; that her father was no more; and that she was at her own disposal; that she had been thrice on the eve of matrimony; but her personal imperfections had prevented the completion of the bargain, notwithstanding the magnitude of her fortune, of which my friend communicated the particulars, not without exaggeration. He proceeded to state, that his house had been extremely fortunate; for that four matches had been made out of it: two nabobs, rolling in gold, to deserving young women, with small fortunes, i. e. in plain English, without

a farthing; and two heiresses married to ruined men of fashion.

He assured me, that the Lincolnshire squire would certainly marry the young boarding-school lady, whose father had ruined himself, and had left her but five hundred pounds in the world, most of which had gone to accomplish her highly, under the matronage of his wife, who brought her out; and that it would be my own fault if I did not whip up the saccharine heiress myself. "I know," said he, "that you are a little in the wind; and if you succeed, you will not forget me; for I am d——d poor just at present." I squeezed his hand, and assured him of my perfect consideration: "*yo estimo mucho, paderoso*

senor," said I ; and I was delighted to see him depart.

I naturally concluded (and I was right) that he was only a more gentlemanlike doer of dirty work than my prime minister ; that he was a regular wedlock agent ; and his house was neither more nor less than a marriage register office. At that time, two young candidates for Hymen boarded in his house, under the pretence of being on a visit there ; and he was deeply in debt to Lincoln Green, whose marriage was to wash off the score. He had also got a pretty nibble from the nabob, whom he kept daily in a state of stupefaction and love, by dinners and the fair cousin's amatory manœuvres ; and, when

that event took place, he hoped he should never want a loan, nor a friend to back him, in case of need.

My first emotion was indignation and contempt: but worldliness soon stepped in, and told me that the Captain was not so much to blame; and I accordingly resolved to keep two strings to my bow, and to have the sugar-loaf in view, lest Shadrach should not consent to give Rachael to my needy embraces. I now determined to press my point with the Israelite; for, in my Moorfields interview with Rachael, she had the art to keep my flame alive, by doubt and by anxiety. Her father, she said, would not hear of her marrying, to leave his house (the idea of a Duke's-Place residence horrified me): but she knew that

mothersh would watch a favorable opportunity when she could do any thing with him (so much for female influence) ; and she herself would meet me in the City Road, and let me know, in two days more, the result of the negotiation.

In the mean time, I got acquainted with the sugar-baker's heiress, and thus was armed at all points. This little reserve I kept a secret from my prime minister, whose assiduities were unwearied, and whose exertions to keep my hundred and twenty creditors at bay were not a little laborious. However, he always kept turning the penny, fancying one day a horse, and on another a snuff box, and getting my acceptances for double what he advanced, partly on

the score of payment, and partly under pretence of carrying on all these law-suits. My suit with Rachael was, however, the only successful one; for her father agreed to accept of my pretty person as a cross in his family, provided that on referring him to my man of business, he was *shatishfied* with my fortune and connexions. I accordingly referred him to my premier, who lied and swore, and produced forged documents, sufficient to carry our point. My negotiator next required to be satisfied on his part, that the young lady's noble fortune should be well secured; and begged to have chapter and verse, in black and white, for every pound sterling. A day was appointed for this purpose; and our wedding-day was

fixed conditionally. Shadrach now affected illness, and put off the meeting with my lawyer ; whilst Rachael and I languished at the delay, and

“ Looked and sighed, looked and sighed,
“ Sighed and looked, and sighed again.”

At length Rachael hit upon a way of easing my pain, which was to elope without her father's consent. She said that he could not bear to part with her, but that when the deed was done, he must come down handsomely ; and she assured me, that if I would agree to take a house in the country, so as to live together, she was certain that he would part with an immense sum in order to keep her with him. Besides, added she, I shall take bonds to the

amount of thirty thousand pounds with me ; for he confides all his secrets to me, and he must give us them. This appeared a little like a forced loan, or rather something savouring of dishonesty ; but

“ ———— when a lady’s in the case,

“ You know all other things give place.”

So I consented to the elopement, and fixed every thing for that purpose on the next night.

I now prevailed upon a money-lender to advance me two hundred pounds on a bond for four, payable at a short date ; and I arranged every thing for my departure for Gretna-green, when, to my utter astonishment, my prime minister arrived, pale and almost breathless, and

informed me that I owed more than my life to him, namely, my fortune, having just come to save me from ruin ; for, that if I had married the Jewess, I should have been irrevocably lost. He further stated, that her father was nothing but a hired acceptor of bills, a hack bail for distressed rakes, a procurer of money without any funds of his own ; and that Lord Longtick and Sir Harry Throwover had run him so hard, that he must inevitably become a bankrupt ; that this was the reason why he could not explain his property to my man of business ; and that the runaway match betwixt Rachael and myself was to have made up his other losses. “ A pretty diamond cut diamond ! ” exclaimed my double-faced attorney.

“But how to put off the lady?” said I, “what a disappointment for her!” “Oh! d—n her,” said he, “leave that to me.” I suggested the propriety of shamming illness, and of getting him to see the father; and, on his refusing to settle handsomely on his daughter, to break off gently; but he insisted on blowing the parties up, and on threatening a law-suit, by which manoeuvre, I was afterwards informed, he extorted from Shadrach a trifle in the form of hush-money.

He now set his wits to work, to find out another match; for our paper was nearly coming due. I, on my part, felt deeply in love with Eliza Manner-ing; such was the name of the young

female I had relieved ; but poverty obliged me to sell myself, and I kept up a correspondence with the lady with the marked countenance, and with the black patch under her ear, not, however, without suffering acutely, for my affections were in the West, and I experienced that

“ Dearly bought the hidden treasure,

“ Finer feelings can bestow ;

“ Chords that vibrate sweetest pleasure,

“ Thrill the deepest notes of woe.”

I now applied myself to raising a subscription for Eliza, and I succeeded eminently. The Honorable George Suspender, although poor at the time, and no longer the intimate and favorite of an illustrious personage, whose house had changed its visitors entirely, contri-

buted his mite *con amore* ; and both the late and the present Lords B. who never close their hearts or their hands on female claims, subscribed most liberally. My good lord gave twenty guineas, and I collected in all two hundred.

And here I must observe, that the young men of that day had more feeling and generosity than the succeeding race. The latter shew more pugilistic strength of body, but the puniest hearts imaginable ; for, in my opinion, tenderness and bravery are twin brothers. I received a most grateful letter from my fair *protégé*, and I was every day getting more and more in love with her, yet daily gaining ground with my disagree-

able mistress, whose romantic letters, and amorous replies in our meetings, indicated certain success.

One day, as I was sitting in my nightgown, and giving audience to a score of duns, my prime minister entered. "Glorious and enchanting news!" cried he, and, when the room was with difficulty cleared, he opened his budget of schemes. He had found out a little deformed heiress, whose father had been a stockbroker. She was elderly, and her mother so infirm in mind and body, that Miss Lovelure could do what she pleased with her. He proposed that we should put four horses to my barouche, and go down together to Bath,

there to lay siege to the golden fleece ; and he suggested the propriety of my sending my few remaining saddle horses to Tattersall's, in his name, to defray the expenses.

I could not help feeling revolted at his excessive meanness and cupidity ; nor could I refrain from observing, that deformity and bad temper were no very great hymeneal temptations ; and finally that my best horse, got by Highflyer, I positively would not part with ; nor could I go down to Bath for a week. He had the impudence to say that beggars must not be chusers ; that he had done a great deal for me ; that I was in his power ; and that I ought to abide by his advice : in fine, he grew so insolent,

that I turned him out of the room, and ordered him never to presume to re-enter my house. “ Very independent, indeed,” exclaimed he, in a rage; “ but you shall see how you can do without me.”

In about three hours afterwards, I was arrested for two thousand pounds; my three carriages and all my horses were seized; and an execution for fifteen hundred pounds was put into my house, all at the instance of my valuable friend and very serviceable prime minister, my faithful slave and servant, as he often styled himself. In this dilemma I was obliged to pass four-and-twenty hours in a sponging-house. My friend, Lord —, was at Brighton;

and all other friends failed me in the hour of trial. I had bailed many a fellow, and lent both my money, name, and credit, more than once ; but I now found no return.

At last I received a visit from Captain ———, of Baker Street, who bailed me for two thousand, and an additional five hundred, lodged as detainers against me. He urged me to conclude my alliance with the sugar-loaf concern, in which event he was to receive five and twenty hundred pounds. I got out of quod ; and allowed my property to be sold to defray the executions, whereby I parted with about six thousand pounds worth of valuables, plate, furniture, carriages and horses

included, to pay little more than three thousand. Moreover, to amuse me during my confinement, Double-face had sent in his enormous bill, begged to give up my business (that was unnecessary), stated my loss of all my law-suits, and presented me with a list of my creditors, one hundred and forty in number, and the amount of their demands about ten thousand guineas.

I was thus in a hopeful situation ; but then my inamorata had fifty thousand, which would amount to double what I owed, gaming debts, and what I had received at different times from Lord ——, included, who, *soit dit en passant*, about this time eloped with the wife of a certain person who shall

be nameless; and was the dupe of a horrible collusion.

I was now obliged to lodge at Dorant's Hotel, to job a chariot and pair; and to buy two saddle horses on tick, in order to keep up appearances; putting my servants on board wages, and selling the repeater in order to stop their mouths. More needy than amorous, I effected in a few weeks my matrimonial scheme; but found, to my great mortification, that my blushing and blooming bride had only half what was stated; so that I could just pay my debts, and set up housekeeping again; leaving but a few hundreds of balance in my banker's hands. Captain —— was now very pressing for his two thou-

sand five hundred ; and I learned, not long after, that his hospitable roof was not only a matrimony but an assignation shop ; that he had palmed his poor relation on the nabob ; that he received pecuniary aid from the faded beauty who sat on his right hand : and that, had I not paid my obligation when I did, I should have been arrested at his suit, as he had an attorney in constant pay to carry his speculations into effect. We are truly, thought I, in the iron age ; for, as I learned when under my tutor,

*Non hospes ab hospite tutus, non socero gener
Rara est quoque gratia fratrum.*

OVID.

CHAPTER IV.

THE number of affairs which I now had on my hands — a new establishment, plans to lay for beginning the world again, new credit to establish after wiping off the old score ; and, above all, the dread of retirement with a wife whose appearance and health were not inviting, and whose temper was far from amiable, decided me on passing only the few first days of *mes nocces* out of town, and on plunging into the gay scene again, with the precaution of blazoning my wife's

escutcheon of pretence on all my new carriages, and of acting *selon l'usage* in high life, by giving out her fortune for four times its amount.

I only passed the fourth part of my sugar-moon at Salt Hill, where Mrs. W. and a certain individual were dallying the soft hours away; and where poor Mrs. R. once the favourite of a royal lover, was spending a week with General T. in blandishments and in retirement. Poor woman! She was not quite kindly used, when an amiable and illustrious lover, allowing, as he too often has done, his ear to be poisoned by some new intruder on his confidence, abruptly flung this flower from his breast, and never allowed her an oppor-

tunity for explanation, or for the defence of errors laid to her charge, and which were not completely substantiated.

Admirable and milk-hearted as that great man is, he has had the fate of untwining love's folds in a very harsh and sudden manner. Mrs. H—— he could not respect: he, of course, treated that *passade* most unceremoniously; but how he could tear the rose of Cornwall from the high situation in which he had placed her, from the pedestal on which she was looked up to, he best knows. He, about this time, "took unto him a wife;" and his hymeneal flame burned out almost as soon as it was kindled. There, also, fresh attraction—a right honorable lady about court—gained upon

admiration, and applied the poison of personal flattery and of detraction in another quarter. *Verbum sat.*

His favorites were, however, now of a higher cast than the Copper Colonel, flash George Suspender, dapper Colonel G——, &c. ; and he had able senators, naval heroes, and the *chevalier par excellence sans peur et sans reproche*, our British Bayard, for the companions of his hours of confidence. The choice did him honor.

But to return to my affairs. It was *toujours perdrix* in my love-game at present ; and, I might add, *toujours ennui*, as a rhyme to it. I got, however, set up in good style ; and,

having paid so much and so well of late, not a tradesman could venture to send in his bill for one twelve-month, nor importune for its payment for a second ; and here I can name Messrs. Rundell and Bridge, Mr. Leader (since deceased), Mr. Smyth, perfumer, Gunter, and a Mr. Coombe, a then most dutiful tailor, as *nonpareilles*, worthy of the highest patronage, and every her of them men of honor, worth, integrity, and property : ergo, *vivant in eternum !*

My house and establishment had now again some eclat ; but as I wanted ready money to support my Opera box, my subscription to the various

clubs, not to mention *les egaremens du cœur et de l'esprit*, I proposed to my wife to join me in an annuity, in order to raise money, as she had a reversionary right to some sugar-houses and other warehouses in the city, which was put out of the power of a husband by a crafty old uncle. However, as my attentions had greatly decreased, and my company was become scarce at home, she positively refused me, complained of being taken in (monstrous)! and upon this we ceased to inhabit the same apartment at night; keeping in the day, before the public, all the pretty edifying proprieties of "my dear George, —what, love?" &c. &c. so common amongst unhappy pairs, fully justifying

Morris's description of love, in which he emphatically proves, that

“ When the substance declines, rich appearance is tried.”

After this, I was terribly put to my wits to keep up appearances; and I came to a resolution of entering the army, and purchased a cornetcy accordingly; but, after joining at head quarters, I got leave to come to town, and I lost my cornetcy in one night at play. My intention was to pass a considerable portion of my time at the regiment, and to leave my wife in the town-house: manœuvring, as many fashionable do, in a most wonderful manner, to keep a house, carriage, &c. without any known foundation, or certain income.

Previously to building these castles in the air, I had projected what I have since repeatedly condemned in myself, what I blush to remember, and what adds a lustre to the distressed object whom I relieved, which has ever since placed her on an eminence in my esteem. I posted down to the west country ; and, confessing all my errors, laying open all my difficulties, and explaining my future plans, I proposed to Eliza to run off with me, and to follow my fortune through life. This she rejected, with the pride of virtue, and with the blush of indignation on her cheek, but not without a struggle of gratitude and of tenderness, which shewed that whilst she bore like a heroine, she felt like a woman. Having

obtained my pardon for my presumption, we parted, and I continued to pay her pension at the boarding-school, whatever was my pecuniary lot.

“ *Per varios casus, per tot discrimina rerum.*”

After the refusal of my suit by Eliza, and the loss of my commission, I had nothing to do but to play the man of fashion again, without project or pursuit, except pleasure ; and as I was now quite desperate, I returned to the turf, and commenced deep play. There are but two classes that are determined players ; those who are desperate in their circumstances, or who are despicable in their abilities : or, in other

words, the dupe and the cheat. There are but two descriptions of men who have any chance of winning ; the great capitalist, and the great rogue : the last is certain ; and I have known them of all descriptions, from peers and baronets, down to low adventurers and tarnished gentlemen.

I was, unfortunately, neither enough of the one nor the other to win. I had no capital, but could command credit and short loans. I ceased to be a dupe as to the knowledge of chances and of games ; but I knew none of the arcana of greeking, which reduces chance to certainty ; nor was I backed by powerful weight of metal playing by proxy ;

nor wealthy misers, who are secret sharers in play transactions.

I bought a complete new stud on speculation ; and I bribed a jockey who generally told me true as to the predetermined fate of a race. I paid high, and I was served rather faithfully. The nabob J— had him afterwards in pay ; and he had also valuable intelligence from club waiters, and a three-parts honest attorney, who gave him early intelligence of a good thing in the way of purchase, or of placing his money out on good and productive security.

My new friend, the jockey, soon enabled me to pay for my stud, and to put a clear thousand in my pocket at Doncaster races ; but my ill luck at play

nearly counterbalanced all my gains. I, however, got acquainted with the next heir of entail to my property; and, on assuring him that a separation had taken place between me and my wife, and giving him a bond of forfeiture for two thousand pounds, in case of my having a male heir, or marrying again in the event of my present wife's decease, he kindly gave me one thousand pounds. The matter was managed by my friend, the captain, who received one hundred from each of us.

By these ways and means, I carried on the war for nearly two years; having spent, in the last five of my life, sixty thousand pounds, and having, for the last three, been in almost daily uncer-

tainty about the morrow, tick and horse-racing resources excepted.

I however found, on looking round me, that many of my friends lived by ways and means less honorable, and not more profitable, than myself: a certain *militaire* owed his annuity to his personal attractions, and received pensions and legacies from frail dowagers; Lord —— kept a gaming table; a northern baronet lived by his horses; Sir J. D—— was a money procurer; my friend, the captain, kept an echo office for love and wedlock; capitalists were usurers behind the scene; and elderly ladies of ruined fortune were procuresses behind the curtain. There was every where something more going on

than plain sailing ; something more than what met the vulgar eye or common ear.

My wife, although something more than plain, had no heir ; but she had acquired all the airs of high life ; and she played her part with ease and composure. We had our separate carriages, our separate establishments, our separate apartments, our separate parties, and our separate friends. I never presumed to enter her chamber ; she never even knocked at mine ; her box at the Opera was never intruded on by me ; whilst my men parties only perceived her for a few minutes after the cloth was removed, *at her at homes*. I just appeared, and she just acknowledged

me with a put on smile, when we met at the same parties.

All was right and going on regularly, when I met with, in one day, the most consummate villain in a male associate, and with a female adventurer, who, for a time, occupied my attention, and diverted my affections from Eliza. I shall mention each of these circumstances in turn, and give the male character first, leaving the lady for an after-piece.

I chanced to dine at a tavern with a turf man, who had lost a treat to a dozen, including every kind of wine for which we could call, on a coursing match of Lord O——'s: the winner

asked his friends; and I happened to have been at college with him, so that I was one of the twelve, who were invited to a most extravagant regale upon this sporting occasion.

Our dinner was most magnificent: it was the *chef d'œuvre* of extravagance; and the greenhorn who lost the bet seemed determined to shew that he was above economy, and knew how to live. Our party consisted of three peers, two baronets, the Leg-count R——, and half a dozen commoners; amongst whom were Jack Moses, whose manliness has since recommended him to be the partner of a Duchess; and Arthur Numskull, who, in spite of the impenetrability of his cranium, contrived to try it

so by a fall from his horse, as to occasion his premature death. Poor Arthur ! he had a good heart ; but

“ The bottle and the gout

“ Did so knock his hull about,” &c.

that brandy could not save him. Many a one will, however, regret his hospitable board in town, and his keeping open house in the season at Kingsgate. A part of the conversation savoured more of business than of pleasure ; and a stranger, to have overheard it, might have thought that we were a mercantile party, and that he had dropped in at high 'change. There were such openings of pocket-books, and pullings out of gold pencils, such memorandums and appeals, such refer-

ences to the knowing ones of the party, such payings of bets and takings down of fresh ones, such disputes and differences of opinion. “I’ll bet you a thousand, Lord B——, that you are wrong,” cries greenhorn. “Done twice over.” “Sir Harry, you are in a gross error: Lord Egremont’s horse did not run that match,” says another. “A very odd race,” exclaims a third. “Any man, of common sense and fair dealing, must have seen that the bay horse had the best of it,” exclaims a fourth. Then we had a difference as to the odds, and a jar about a bubble bet; the regulations of the Jockey Club called for; six bets set down, and witnessed in form; Lord ——’s groom sent for by his master, to be examined on a race; a hunter sold

for the small sum of seven hundred guineas, and a dog at the moderate price of seventy; exchanges of carriages; fowling pieces, and a shooting poney; a handycap made for a private race; and a match made up for the next day at the racket-court. One hundred was subscribed for a fool to go blind-folded from Cambridge to a certain church across the country; and a thousand was made up for a match against time.

Such were the rational amusements; or rather, I ought to say, such the important transactions of a great part of the evening. We now proceeded to hide the horse for another merry meeting, and to make sporting and other engagements; to traduce mens' mis-

tresses, and to throw out inuendoes respecting their faithful brides; and then we got snug back to the stable, where we tarried in conversation for three long hours. We had there as ample a page on the pedigree of one horse as the whole history of Bourbon and of Nassau, or of the houses of Witikind and Braganza, would have occupied. We had next a volume on the annals of hunting; and the transactions of the turf were detailed in a speech of three quarters of an hour.

The Reverend B. D. Clericus was eulogized with many an oath, and many an expression of turf slang; and his health was drank as a benefit and a blessing to mankind, and as a pillar of

the church, for bringing out that stupendous book of knowledge, the *Sporting Magazine* : and one member, in an altered voice, with purple lip and hoarse throat, proposed that a subscription should be set on foot to erect an equestrian statue to his honor, near some race-course, with a fox's brush in his hat, and a hound running before him.

Now the wine took different courses with various constitutions. One man grew generous and benevolent (only one) ; another grew noisy, and sang unbidden ; a third turned stupid ; and a fourth grew positive and contradictory. One told us his own secrets ; and another observed the silence of the grave, only when he drew out the secrets of a

third, quizzed him in a laconic manner, or smiled in scorn at the *foiblesse* of a weaker brother than himself. “ Let no such man be trusted.” I sat next to a particularly pleasant man, a good companion, and one who seemed to be master of all the transactions in high life, all *les on dits* of gallantry and fun, all the chit-chat so essential to the *assaisonnement* of modern conversation. He blamed me for taking a bet with Lord S. on a trial of strength and science (since that term is prostituted to the art of milling) between Humphreys and Mendoza ; and prevented me from taking long odds, where I should certainly have lost to Count R. These two acts of friendship raised him in my estimation ; and the increased pulse

which generous wine produced opened my heart to him without reserve.

My friend proposed that as my carriage horses were young, and my own property, that he should take me home in his ; or rather, I ought to have said, “ give me a cast : ” such were his words. I accepted, and at about three, A.M. we broke up, taking the directions which the tide of wine guided us to. One went to a favourite ; three on roving commissions ; a couple, who hunted together, steered in the latitude of Berkeley Square, with a *western* breeze ; two were carried off speechless to their spouses ; and the rest went to hell, I mean to Mrs. W——’s, well known by that name.

My new friend, with whom I had shaken hands at least fifty times, insisted on my not going to play, and prudently brought me safe home to my lonely couch.

I found my valet de chambre half asleep; was told that my wife was not returned from a masquerade; read a letter from my groom, informing me that my best horse was lame, and could not run at Doncaster, whereby I lost a heavy sum, it being a p.p. and perused a letter from fair Eliza. It was now growing light: my mind was uneasy; sleep had fled from my eye-lids; and there remained only the irritation and heat, without the irradiation and sooth-

ing quality of wine ; so that I resolved to dress myself in a morning costume, and to go out in search of *la bonne aventure*. I sallied out accordingly, determined to look in at two gambling-houses, but only to risk five guineas ; to visit the watch-house and the finish ; and to knock up two or three persons of my acquaintance.

In the course of this ramble, I met with the female adventurer before alluded to, who shall be the subject of future animadversion. I got home at about six, and dozed until ten ; wrote letters and put off duns until twelve ; and took two hours for dressing and inspecting my stable. About two o'clock my *nouveau camarade* arrived, com-

plained of the head-ache ; said that he was obliged to call on the Prince, which I afterwards found out was a falsehood ; that he had two engagements for dinner, but that he was not equal to it ; that the Sillery, Lafitte, and Hermitage, of the day before, had put him *hors de combat* ; and that if I chose to ride off our debauch, he would start with me at four o'clock, and go down to his *petit etablissement*, near Epsom ; adding, that he knew that I had good cattle, but that if I chose to trust my *corpus* on a mare of his, which he called Crazy, he would answer for our getting down in little more than an hour ; that I could send my groom off with a change two hours previous, and that he would get a man or two to make up a trio, or a

partie quarrée, and that we could rusticate for a couple of days, in order to bring us round.

The proposal appeared so agreeable, that I cheerfully accepted it, despatched my *valet de chambre* in a post-chaise, looked in at the racket-court, where a throw-over was going on, and met my friend at the bottom of St. James's Street, where, mounting his groom on my horse, I bestrode Crazy, and we set off with four fiery steeds at three parts speed. We were not long getting down to Bagatelle; and I was so pleased with Crazy, that I offered two hundred guineas for her of my own accord; but my kind friend said, "George, (thus intimate had we got) I will not take your

money; first, because I can probably get more, if I look out for an opportunity, and next because it is a long price, more than you can afford, and more than you ought to give: you have plenty of horses; and don't throw away your money: she is at your service until sold; and we may make some *coups* together, which may recruit your finances, for I know that you have been the victim of your own artless and generous disposition, and that your heart has sailed too fast for your pocket, my boy."

This candor and disinterestedness charmed me: I thanked him heartily, and he continued further to ingratiate himself with me, by informing me that

he had got secret intelligence of an execution which would be out against me in a few days, but that if I would take his advice I should get through it. His plan was, that I should make over my horses, carriages, and furniture, to him, by which means they could not be sold: my plate, he said, I might send to the banker's, and he would lend his for a few days to my wife. He added, he would instruct his attorney how to act when the execution was attempted, and that I should remain *perdu*, at his sporting seat, until he had negotiated a renewal of the bond, so as to give me time; adding that his man of business should join in the security; and that we would lay our heads together how to meet the demand when it be-

came due. Such unparalleled friendship quite overpowered me. But he did not stop there.

After going over his capital stables, and after seeing his excellent stud, his dog-kennel and armory, containing beautiful fowling pieces and other arms, of foreign and home manufacture, he led me to his library, well chosen; to his cellar, well stored; to the saddle and harness room, as neat and clean as a drawing-room; and, finally, through his pleasure-grounds, laid out with much taste. Then, entering his dressing-room, he took up a pen and ink, and said, "My dear George, if you want a loose hundred or two to send home, or to keep your rascals of grooms

respectful and in order — to keep up the stud in good form, or to send to a fair favorite, I will write you out a draft to that amount, and take your simple acknowledgment for it; and pay me when you please. In the interim, make my house your home; *vive la joie et la bagatelle*: there are some very pretty girls in the neighbourhood; horses and dogs at home; a bit of mutton and fish every day; and more wine than you can master in three years, so ‘*Vogue la galere tant quelle peut voguer.*’

Here was a friend indeed! I thought him a parallel for a certain peer then abroad: I could scarcely refrain from tears, and accepted the kind offer. We now went to dress, and at about eight

o'clock sat down to a sumptuous feast. Covers were laid for six, but my friend produced three apologies, which of course I did not peruse; and we sat down three in number, himself, his *querida*, a very young and pretty girl who had eloped from her parents, and my unworthy self.

After dinner, Emma (so he called her) retired, and we got into confidential conversation. I unbosomed my whole heart to him, told him my difficulties, my domestic infelicity, my prospects, my fears, and deposited the inmost secrets of my soul in his friendship and confidence: "It is high time, George," said he, "that you should grow wise: '*Sapere aude*,' as our

friend Horace says : you have been a dupe long enough : as for your wife, I will put you upon a plan of getting rid of her ; but the first thing, ‘ *ante todas cosas*,’ as we say in Spain, is to get a little money, and to get rid of all pecuniary embarrassments.” To all this I readily consented.

He now prefaced his plan by quoting princes and potentates, who knew turf tricks, glanced unmerited censure at high dignity in a Newmarket transaction, assured me that many noblemen, gentlemen, bankers, and traders, increased their means by play ; and that the greater the capitalist, the greater his chance of making a fortune ; “ but,” concluded he, “ we must

reduce chance to a certainty, and I can do it. There," exclaimed he, throwing out his hand, and opening his fingers with an elongated extension; "there, George; there is a fortune!" "At your fingers ends!" answered I. "Aye, George; but of this hereafter: the present plan for your immediate relief is to set up a faro bank, besides giving private play. Nothing can be more *honorable*! the chances of the table are quite enough. I know that you have no money, but you can get Jack Rackrent and Sir Simon Simple each to give you their acceptances for twelve hundred and fifty at three months; and I will get my coal merchant and my horse dealer to cash their bills. To this sum I will add as much; and we will

take the field with five thousand in hand ; and if we do not turn ten thousand a-piece in a quarter of a year, Hoyle was an old washerwoman, and Cocker a dunder-headed boy."

I swallowed all this with a glass of Cyprus wine, and sat astounded in silent wonder and admiration. So confused was I at the time, that if my friend had told me he could rebuild the temple of Solomon I should have believed him. The song and the toast now rolled on : Emma enchanted us on the harp, and a hasty supper, with plentiful libations, crowned the night. My host hinted to me, before we went to our chambers, that no time was to be lost in procuring the acceptances ; and begged, at concluding,

that I would not name our plan to any one; and that, in asking the favor of my friends, his name should be held sacred. I was to state that I wanted that *trifling* accommodation, *the mere lending of a name* for a few weeks, to meet some losses either at Newmarket, White's, or the *Savoir vivre*; and to make light of the matter, as if it were a *mere act of civility*, scarcely worthy the name of service between man and man. Here he testified his *noble contempt for money*, with "What is a few paltry thousands betwixt friends or fellows of spirit?" and we parted in all the links and sympathies of a never-ending attachment.

Added to the charm of his conversation, and his being a good bottle com-

panion, he was moreover a great judge of mankind, a well-read, and a greatly travelled man; but, above all, he had a *Je ne sais quoi* about him of fashion and of ease, which gives the last *vernish* or polish to a man. Apropos of the *Je ne sais quoi*, he belonged to that club which received its highest lustre from the star of England when in its early resplendence. I had, during three successive long vacations, visited Paris Spa, and had seen our army on the continent: I had learned, in my closet, most of the modern fashionable languages; but still I felt my great inferiority to him, and I resolved to remedy that when opportunity offered. I was now only twenty-five years of age, and I had seen a great deal, and had been

twice ruined ; but I expected to be perfected under my accomplished friend, and, through his stupendous abilities, to become richer than ever. With this golden dream I fell asleep, waked about noon, when followed—the morning reflections.

Oh, flattery ! how pleasing thou art to the heart and to the ear of man and of woman ! Not only did the fruits of promise bloom beauteously in my view at opening my eyes, but the glow of friendship and the treacherous stimulus of wine double nerved and inflamed me. I had a false prowess about me, which could have overthrown a Centaur ; an artificial courage, which fitted me for warlike or for amorous *emprise* ; a sen-

sibility ready to melt at woman's tear, to to flow for a friend in the hour of danger; a *gaieté de cœur*, which made me ready to leap over the moon, a *nonchalance* about the world and worldliness that rocked me into a security, and made me not care, as Burns says, *if a' the world went topsy turvy o !*

My kind friend, too, had so flattered me about my own abilities and my superiority over men of my age, that I was very well indeed at home. Although a *limb*, not of the law *only*, had deceived me by his grossest of all flattery, and defrauded me of about three thousand pounds for bill of costs, advice, and services *not* performed, yet was the present incense far more sweet, insinuating,

and effectual, than that of the former deceiver.

Nothing was farther from my heart than suspicion of any living being, and much less of one who was become, as far as friendship can go, the “*Dimidium animæ meæ.*”

We were all in high spirits at breakfast: an admirable one was provided, and a glass of Maresquina bore our courage up. We took a break-neck ride, in which my all-accomplished companion performed prodigies of horsemanship, clearing fences, double ditches, five-barred gates, hurdles, palings, &c. and we came home, the one delighted with himself, the other doubly delighted with

his friend. Our two guests also luckily arrived; and I carried into effect the sage counsel of my valuable associate.

They entered with faces heated with champagne and the want of rest. Jack Rackrent, my old college companion, gave *tongue* first: "Whoop! whoop! hark to him, my boy! What the h—are you here, George? Another hard day and be d—d to you: here we are, Sir Simon, and I hard up: to be sure we do lead the devil's own life." "Not yet," replied I. "You be d——," continued he. "I'll bet the longest odds ever known, that you don't find a brace of fellows to keep up with us in hard going: there's the Prince, to be sure, he is a prime bit of royalty, a soul of a

fellow, the essence of elegance, and a pattern of every thing that's noble and stylish: he dined at the *Je ne sais quoi club* 'tother day, sat up all night, and then started off as fresh as a four-year old to a stag hunt; had a very tough day's work of it, and carried on till four in the morning: but bless your heart, old George,* that's nothing to Sir Simon and I: we have not had our clothes off these three nights. One night we were tripping it on the light fantastic toe at Lady Louisa's ball: next night as drunk as two lords at the Thatched House, and up at hazard till six in the morning; then started for

* It was then common at Oxford to call a friend "Old One."

Richmond, and galloped there every inch of the way, took a warm bath and a breakfast, cantered back again, dashed through the Park, dined tête-à-tête at Sabloniere's hotel, and then went to Mrs. G——'s masquerade, next to a pugilistic match; and here we are arrived at full speed in one hour and fifteen minutes by the Baronet's stop watch, without drawing bit. Whoop! whoop! my old sportsman."

"By the bye, your wife was at the masquerade, George, as large as life, and twice as natural, hung to the arm of a raw-boned subaltern. By Juno, you had better take care that she don't make you a Knight of the Crescent; for she is growing d——ly dissipated of

late. She has got acquainted with the northern Duchess, and was confoundedly plucked at cards ; and this is the second masquerade which the good lady has been at within a week. The female *legs* are all after her, like crows about carrion ; for they don't know that you have worked up all the *Spanish*, and they expect to make a good thing of her. She was in the character of *Night* at the last masquerade ; but she soon unmasked—there she was wrong, for the mask was the best face of the two by far. How the devil you could marry such an ugly —— : but I beg your pardon ; I mustn't run you too hard, neither. You don't mind me, I know ; besides, I'm any thing but sober. I say, Simon, my boy, your eye looks

like a boiled gooseberry : you're almost extinguished."

Here I took Jack aside and asked him for the acceptance, my host having furnished me with stamps, of which he had always a pocket full in case of emergency. "My acceptance!" cried Jack. "Aye, Georgy, any thing but the *stumpy*. I can't *post the cole* at all : I've been horribly pigeoned of late ; but you shall have my acceptance. I suppose it is a mere matter of form." "A mere matter of form," replied I, and I put the acceptance in my pocket. I now waited until the hour of dressing, and found Sir Simon had been lying down and taking two hours rest ; he neither

had the strength of mind nor of body which Jack possessed; and it was always the latter's boast—"by Juno, I think I shall kill that fellow at last."

Jack Rackrent was a very different character to Sir Simon, as will soon appear; although both their finales might offer useful lessons to the youth of fashion, if they would peruse them with attention. Jack was all heart—all noise—all rattle—an excellent scholar, and a merry fellow. He was extravagant from thoughtlessness and from generosity; and a hard liver from a love of good fellowship, and from priding himself on his constitution and

on his animal spirits. He had some fine estates in Ireland, which he never saw; was the dupe of every money-lender in town; honorable in principle, but taking no thought of to-morrow: in a word, no man's enemy but his own.

Sir Simon was a man of the weakest intellect, dissipated from taste, fond of wine, proud to appear in the public papers for having a superior well-built carriage, or for giving a mad price for a horse. He lived hard, because great men did the same; and he gamed and spent a large fortune, merely for fashion's sake. He, in contradistinction to Jack, was no man's friend but his own; he was strict with his servants,

would cavil for half-a-crown, grudged what he spent, got into Parliament merely to protect his person, had very bad principles, and never paid a guinea unless on compulsion. At the same time he would pay a heavy gaming debt to a man of title, with the greatest exactitude, making his trades-people wait seven years, and even ruining his poor creditors, in order to support his extravagance, and to give him greater eclat.

As soon as I entered his room, I made my request in an easy way, as if it had been a matter of indifference; and I immediately perceived him turn pale. He stammered and hesitated much, tried to evade the question, ex-

plained to me his heavy losses on the turf, and at play; the general want of money, the pressure of the times, the unpleasantness of acceptances in case of unforeseen delays, with many other substantial reasons for not complying. But I had already learned a good deal from my host, and knew how to charge my battery, and to shift my ground on an emergency. I accordingly put the bill in my pocket; said it was of no consequence; that such a d—d paltry sum as twelve hundred and fifty was not worth talking about; that I could get it by going to town, but that I wanted to save myself the trouble. However, that I did not think an old college companion would have been so shabby, and that I was sorry I had

asked him. This produced its effect ; and he apologized, took up the pen and ink, and accepted the bill ; drawing a deep sigh as he concluded his name, and begged that I would be regular in taking up the bill, and that I would not name the transaction to Jack. This just suited me ; for I had begged Jack not to tell the baronet of his having accommodated me : and thus all was snug as possible.

I lost no time in communicating my success to my friend, who chuckled with delight as he put the acceptances in his pocket. We had a hard drinking day : my host won a small sum at chicken hazard ; and our guests went off in high spirits. My host accompanied

them, and returned the next day ; having fenced off all my difficulties, and established the bank. There I was grieved to the heart to see poor Jack lose ten thousand pounds, whilst Sir Simon paid his little forfeit for the honor of my accomplished friend's acquaintance and society. It was often extremely painful to me, to observe some good fellow, the esteemed companion of my youthful years, fall a victim to this fly-trap of a bank, which my unfeeling friend used jocosely to call the *cobweb*. However, I used to solace myself by the immense sum we should have to divide at the end of the season ; and I obtained great credit from a Jew, on the strength of my being a partner in this concern.

The season was now nearly closed, when my masterly manœuvrer of a friend introduced me to a most accomplished French count, with whom we dined, and who accompanied us to the *cobweb* with his pockets full of rouleaus. I anticipated seeing him quit the table like one of *Pharoah's lean kine* ; for I candidly confess, that I had my mind slightly tinged with the gangrene of *greeking*. But, to my utter astonishment, and overwhelming discomfiture, the count had such a run of luck, that he broke the bank, carrying off poor Jack's securities for ten thousand pounds ; five thousand more won from strayed pigeons, and the two thousand five hundred raised on the acceptances which I was now unable to take

up, besides the other two thousand five hundred of my partner in the concern.

My friend came to sup with me ; swore that he was a ruined man ; d——d the foreigner ; struck his head as if in an agony ; said that he *even* wanted the two hundred which he had lent me ; and left me in such despair, that had he drowned himself, I should not have been surprised. But what complex villainy was brought to light, when I found out, some years afterwards, that this was all a preconcerted scheme, and that he, *in fact*, broke his own bank ; the count being a confederate in the plot, and having that season won ten thousand pounds more at private play, in concert with my false friend, besides

this *coup* of the cobweb! I was now completely ruined for the second time; every thing being sold off; my wife obliged to go into lodgings, and myself into the Rules of the Fleet.

CHAPTER V.

ON that eventful night when I formed a connexion with the basest of men, as I turned the corner of St. James's Street, between three and four in the morning, I was accosted by a most interesting looking woman, about six-and-twenty, of a dark complexion, and with piercing black eyes, shooting their darts through the longest silken eyelashes that ever I beheld. Her figure was tall and majestic; and there was much dignity in the whole of her de-

portment. "A fine morning," said she, with a sigh; and then summoned up a smile, which chid nature for thus doing violence to herself. It was something more heart-piercing than a blended smile and tear; it was a convulsive effort which bespoke a wounded spirit, a heart wrung with affliction! "Will you take me home with you?" added she, in an inarticulate accent of hidden grief; "Or *vice versa*?" said I. "I have no home," replied the daughter of sorrow; "no home, no husband, no friends." The bosom that has been softened by suffering, is ever open to sympathy: mine always melted at a woman's wrongs. Here (thought I to myself) is another Eliza, another victim of misfortune, another sacrifice to

poverty or to seduction; some plundered rose, some deserted partner of an unnatural mate. Alas! cried I, the birds of the air cherish their young, and betray not their females: man only is cruel to his mate. On examining her countenance, I found a strong resemblance to an old officer, whom I had met during my very short service as a dragoon. “Do you know Colonel ——?” said I. “Unfortunately, for the honor of his family, I am his daughter,” answered she. I offered her my arm; and, as she folded her’s within it, her convulsive tremor shook my whole frame. “And hast thou no roof to shelter thy lovely head, daughter of affliction?” exclaimed I. “Yes;—no: oh! no;” replied she, shaking her head,

and under infinite confusion. "Then I will procure thee one," added I, putting a bank-note into her hand. "Not for the world!" said she: "save me this once." I asked what she meant by that expression. She assured me, that this was her first step in the paths of vice; that I might think her an impostress, but that if I would accompany her home, she would give me *three reasons* for her base conduct.

I complied; and she conducted me to her wretched garret. There, stretched upon a cold bed of straw, were three lovely children screaming for want, and calling on their mother's name. An execution had carried off every article of furniture: she had pledged all her

wearing apparel except the mourning dress she wore ; and neither herself nor her children had tasted food for six-and-thirty hours. She told me that she had sought for work in vain, and had no means of keeping life in herself and children, except by receiving the price of infamy. Here she shed a profusion of tears ; and concluded by saying, that she had gone out at ten o'clock with evil intent, but that her heart failed her and she returned ; when the hungry accents of her agonized babes drove her out again with the choice of suicide and prostitution staring her in the face. She blessed the hand that relieved her in that trying moment ; and, turning to one of her children, sobbed out, " Mary, this gentleman

is kinder than the father who has deserted you."

The substance of her story was, that he had been early seduced by a villain, who, after fixing a stain upon her reputation, and having three children by her, had basely deserted her and gone abroad : that her father would not look on her, nor save her and her children from perishing for want ; and that she was abandoned by the whole world, and left to her wretched fate. Truth mars the merit of my generosity to this unhappy woman ; for her attractions gained such an ascendancy over me, that I remained attached to her for many years. I expended on her a very large sum of money ; and, disgusting and

singular to tell, I was awakened from my dream of delight, from the security of the tenderest confidence, from an unmerited and ill-bestowed partiality, by discovering her to have formed a connexion the most mean and degrading ; since which she has been married to the party. Thus is the heart of woman a complete riddle ; and thus has many a frail fair one committed a prostitution of the heart by being made *an honest woman*.

My stay in the Rules of the Fleet was of short duration : an uncle dying in India, without a will, put me for the third time in the possession of a fortune. His property amounted to about forty thousand pounds ; which,

had he made a will, he would certainly have left away from me. In earlier days he used to torment my boyish years by harsh censure and sour advice, always ascribed to his regard for me; and on all these occasions I used to say, “ *Honorez nous, seigneur, de votre indifférence.*” Poor old gentleman! he was a money-loving, gouty, touchy old body; and I candidly confess, that when the lawyer came to announce his decease, and his not having made a will, and broke the business with “Your poor dear uncle,” with a face of a yard and a half long, the idea of getting out of confinement, and out of debt, lighted up my countenance with the warmest smile; and I was nothing short of unnatural on the occasion. My

friend, to whom I dedicate this book, knows my heart ; he also knows the many failings which I possess ; but I will not add to the long list the crime of hypocrisy ; and I could not write my life without incurring the guilt of that vice, were I not to confess the truth, however disadvantageous to myself, on this occasion.

When I left the Rules of the Fleet, I took special care to shine in carriages, and in appointments ; and to make myself as public as possible, in order to stop the tongue of scandal, and to silence the slanders which were circulated to my disadvantage. I took a house for three months, for which I paid three hundred pounds, and had

every thing on a suitable footing. I shall never forget the altered countenances of those *things* on town, your fashionable loungers ; fellows who had been calling me a d—— fool, who “knew that I must come to this ; that my property had been gone these many years ; that every one knew I was much *in the wind* ; that my vanity was unpardonable, &c. and who enjoyed my having been done by ——.” Now it was “my dear George, what an age since we have seen you ; “and, by the powers, fresher than ever ! You are the very first fellow in the world for carriages and horses, the prince of dissipation, the very cream of fashion. What a devilish good house you have got. Poor Lord —— ruined himself

in it. I suppose your cellar is the *old thing*; the best wines in Europe *dans votre cave*." Thus did these contemptibles alter their note. Such was the language of these trencher friends.

I now began to meditate on a permanent separation from my wife. We derived no benefit from each other's society: our views and interests were separate; and, from indifference, we had now passed almost to hatred. My arch fiend, who had for a time borne the mask of friendship, had advised me to offer her a sum of money to divorce me, and to take her to Scotland for the purpose of carrying the suit through the courts of that country, furnishing *at the same time* the *ground-work* for the di-

vorce myself. This has become very fashionable; and I could say a great deal on the subject, but I spare my friends; and the duke and marquis at the head of the alphabet, and the baronet Hilarity, as well as Mr. ——— and Lady ———, may rest tranquil: I will neither disturb their tranquillity, nor bring back old grievances.

The plan which I hit upon was far different. I affected to take umbrage at the raw-boned lieutenant; and intimated that my sposa's dissipated life, added to the reports which had gone abroad respecting her attachment to this youth, had given me serious uneasiness; that although I had lost all claims on her affection, yet there was a

respect due to me in quality of her husband, and much due to herself and to society ; that it was not my wish to expose those failings on her part, which I felt a pride and a propriety in screening from public censure ; but that I owed to my fortune and to my respectability to protect both from further injury ; and, whilst I regretted having entirely squandered her property, it had lately been my good fortune to inherit one sufficient to make a settlement on her of a thousand per annum ; a sum equal to any provision which she could either have asked or expected on the score of what she brought in marriage. I concluded by advising, that a deed of separation should be executed between us ; and I assured her, that,

though legally separated, I should have her interest at heart; and that, if the influence of my esteem could be acceptable to her in any shape, she might unreservedly command it; that her worth was fully known to me; but that my passions and habits were (I lamented to say) such as to destroy all *convenance* betwixt us. I concluded my epistle with all the pomp, importance, and *assumed* regard of a Spaniard, who concludes (to a common acquaintance)—*Quedo rogando a Dios que mi guarda sei vida muchos annos*; and when I made up my envelope, I could not help smiling in scorn of my own consummate duplicity.

My good lady beat me hollow in her

reply. If I had been haughty, she was heroic; if I had been extravagant, she out-heroded Herod in romance. Her health being extremely bad, she had gone for change of air to Salt Hill for a fortnight, the very spot where I passed my honey moon. Here, aided by the productions of a circulating library, and the very last turn-out of romance which could be got at the shop of Mr. ———. She worked herself into bombast the most bombastic, and out-did the Inamorato or Furioso of Ariosto. She began her heroic epistle with the following quotation — what a happy thought!

O woods, O fountains, hillocks, dales, and bowers,
With other echo late I taught your shades
To answer, and resound far other song.

And then proceeded to paint her former passion for my unworthy self (whether the raw-boned lieutenant was by her side as a *figure in speech*, I know not). She next proceeded to paint *the heart-agonizing change* in my love (a thing which never existed); and then she came to the accusation which was brought against her. On this, she expatiated in the most delicate manner, “strong in her own innocence, and in the purity of her sentiments.” I could easily see that the charge flattered her amazingly. She concluded by observing, that respect for my will, and a desire to promote my views in every thing, had always been an imperious duty with her; and that, however keen her regret at parting, the terms on which

we had so long lived had prepared her for the shock, and had mitigated the sentence of separation. She was, she assured me, submissive to my will in every thing, as in duty she was bound to be. The latter end of her letter was so ludicrously tender, that I thought I should have split my sides with laughter at it.

Luckily for me, she knew nothing of my last infidelity, or I should have had a little invective mixed up in the dose, which would have made an agreeable *family aigre doux*, so common now-a-days with wedded pairs, amongst whom it not unfrequently happens that the most guilty becomes the most plaintive, as was my case. The fair one's

epistle concluded with the following poetical effusion—

As the lost convict views his native shore,
And weeps his crime* and happier days no
more,
The raging billows cause his mind no fear,
'Tis *home* alone which swells the gushing tear :
Thus life's vicissitudes I calmly view :
The faithful tear can flow *alone* for you.

* My only crime was ceasing to be pleasing
in your sight.

Very pretty, indeed, said I. *Ceasing to be pleasing!* that's a good one—as if she *ever had been*. Vanity again! Yet to be honest, after I had read this nonsense, I felt a disturbed sensation, which I was determined not to attend to, and which, consequently, I cannot describe. I considered myself a

base fellow for having deceived a worthy woman, who might have lived comfortably alone. However, I ordered my horse, who, fortunately for me, was nearly in as bad humour as myself, and I got rid of my first sullenness by spurring and applying the whip to him most unmercifully; and, when I had vented my rage, I called myself a brute. But one misery chased away another. What a piece of work is man!

To tell the truth, respecting my suspicions of my wife's honor, I believe that they were wholly groundless, nor did they give me the least uneasiness. I consider the raw-boned lieutenant's passion to have been *cupboard* and *pantry* love; and madame's return to have

been nothing but *ultra* vanity and a wish to plague me. Poor woman ! a few years afterwards, her constitutional complaint baffled all her precautions, and every medical endeavour to arrest its progress, which was only terminated by her death. My heart has often smote me since that period ; and, at the time, I was quarrelsome with every living being who came near me, and did not speak to my perfidious mistress for three days. And here a word concerning mistresses.—How few, identifying themselves with the interests, the feelings, and the sympathies of the man who protects them, lean upon him alone ! My friend, like thousands of others, set up an interest apart ; and, from the moment

that she regained prosperity, sought an establishment elsewhere, thereby leaving nothing but regret for mis-placed confidence in that bosom which had harboured far other sentiments for years. But she is gone—*et qu'il n'en soit plus question.* I now return to self.

My first act on coming into possession of the property of my late uncle was to take up the acceptances of my friends, who had behaved very differently to me ; for Jack Rackrent, who had been arrested on my account, got the action bailed, and only pitied me for what had befallen me ; whilst Sir Simon, whose person was protected, abused me in every quarter of the town, and boasted

of the service which he had rendered me, just as if he had paid the money.

During my short residence in the *Fleet*, I had become acquainted with some of the *crew* therein. There were one peer, two baronets, and a score of men of high fashion there. I messed in my lodgings with four ; and I never had a more plentiful table, or more riotous afternoons in my life. The peer we all cut ; but Sir Nicholas was a walking compendium of pleasantry and anecdote ; whilst the very astonishing stories of a certain cornet would have done honor to *Munchausen* : he had, however, one fair excuse, i. e. when a man's person is confined, it is quite

hard enough ; but to *confine his ideas* is beyond the power even of the timid *Louis le desirè*, or the inquisitorial Ferdinand the *beloved*, that accomplished clipper of liberty, and embroiderer of saint's petticoats.

My next act, after paying my debts, was to give a grand dinner to my *few* friends. On this occasion, my *best friend, a peer*, was my *croupier* ; and honest Jack Rackrent was on my right hand. I also gave a treat to my minor tradespeople, and let all my servants get drunk at my expense. Our evening concluded by an involuntary visit to the watch-house ; for poor Jack, being top-heavy, could not make good his retreat from the *guardian angels of darkness*,

who hover around the defeated bucks and belles of the town ; therefore I slackened sail, and came to my captured friend's assistance. We soon got enlarged by a *golden key* ; but I met on that occasion with a parson, a character with whom I have ever since been on the strictest terms of friendship, and who merits an introduction to the reader.

Bob Orthodox was *bred* to the church, because the church alone offered *bread* to him. His patron had a good living at his disposal ; and Bob accepted it accordingly. Of a generous, open, and facetious disposition, the paraphernalia of office sat uneasy on his light disposition ; but a sense of propriety always

imposed a becoming restraint upon him within the verge of his parish, and all his enjoyments were confined to riding a good horse, and to giving his bottle of black-strap with a hearty welcome to his friend. Two or three times a-year, however, business used to call him to the metropolis, when Bob, perfectly *incog*, made a *break-out* not dissimilar to a schoolboy in vacation.

It was on one of these occasions that I met his *reverence* in the watch-house. He had been dining with a few schoolfellows at the Piazza, and had slyly slipped away in order to see the *humors* of the town, without entailing disgrace on the cloth. His first fancy was to see what was going on in

a fashionable hell, and to try and win five guineas. “*Acheronta movebo*,” cried our classical friend ; but as the dark inhabitants *averni*, more generally *play hell* with their customers, the parson marched off *minus* his five guineas ; and being a Cantab, had an opportunity, as he went along, of sporting the hacknied old pun—*Cantab it vacuus*.

Being rather *Bacchi plenus*, he fell into innocent conversation with a female nocturnal wanderer, who left him, at parting, not only without money but without *tick*, for his watch had been charmed by this modern Circe out of his fob. Clericus now ran after the lady in order to stop her,

and to request *some return* from her, (“How sweet’s the love that meets return!”) when she artfully gave a tremendous scream, and charged the constable of the night with him. Our reverend friend tried to explain; but mademoiselle accused him of an assault; and things wore a very gloomy aspect when we arrived at the watch-house.

The plundered parson would willingly have parted with his property, but he dreaded the exposure which the sun-beam might bring to light. Jack and I entered very warmly into his feelings, for we perceived that he was a perfect gentleman, and a good fellow besides. We negotiated a restoration

of property with sacrifices on all sides, compromised the matter to the satisfaction of all parties, and so delivered the *high* priest from the hands of the Philistines. Whilst we were in captivity many ridiculous occurrences took place; and, amongst others, a black female was brought in charged with knocking down a Cyprian of fair complexion. On this accusation our merry parson sported the following Latin pun:—

———— nimium ne crede *colori*

Alba ligustra *cadunt*, vaccinia nigra *leguntur*.

VIRGIL.

We all adjourned to breakfast, and got so linked by the heart that we likewise dined together, and parted at midnight the best friends in the world;

Clericus going home, as modest-looking as a maid, to his flock ; and each of us going to our different houses ; *liberally* making allowances for each others weakness, and being convinced how true it was, that

Miserorum est neque amori dare ludum
Neque dulci mala vino lavare.

HORAT.

Poor Jack Rackrent never recovered from a cold caught on this occasion, which, fixing upon his lungs, carried him off in the flower of youth, a self-devoted victim to dissipation, with talent and goodness of heart enough to have made him a bright ornament to society. The senseless Sir Simon turned miser ; and was another instance that weak head and narrow heart often

go together ; whilst a little paltry worldliness gets a man through life more successfully than the most brilliant qualities of heart and mind.

In about three years after coming into my uncle's fortune, I was not only a widower, but I had run through nearly the whole of my property, having consumed nearly one hundred thousand pounds in six years. The defection of my faithless female ally took place not long after ; I therefore resolved to retrench, to sink my small remnant of property, and go abroad. France and the Netherlands were shut up ; but *Napoladrone* had not devastated the fine country of Italy at that time ; and I resolved to embark on board

a ship commanded by a brother collegian, to land at Livorno; and thence to proceed to Rome, Naples, Florence, &c.

A very attractive female companion offered at this period, and I was delighted to be the *Cicesbeo* of a titled fair. The emigrants were at this juncture all the fashion in London. Lovely women and intriguing men, dancers of waltzes and quadrilles, and consummate card-players, filled every circle. Scarcely a lady of quality went to a rout or to the opera without a count or a chevalier in her train; nor was there a man of fashion who had not a marquise or a comtesse for his mistress or for his flirt. The *talens de plaire* are such, in *French* women, that even a

duchess, with a throne on her back, was extensively celebrated in the annals of gallantry; and the one-eyed Duke Q. must needs try to play *Q in the corner* with a vicomtesse who threw the *glove* at him. This *manie* decreased rapidly; but I must join in that, as in every other fashionable rage.

The emigrés at this time presented a curious picture in society—men fallen from the proudest and highest spheres, and bearing not only with philosophy, but with heroism, their reverse of fortune, and caricaturing in their dress the *higher* English fashions, still delighted with an amorous *aventure*, or even the air of having it; husbands and wives separated for whole years, and now living together from *economy*;

mutual infidelities pardoned and made the subject of *railleries*, and an *increase* being sometimes the consequence thereof; titled dancing-masters, titled fencing-masters, and titled language-masters, by dozens; all, however, filling their new characters with courage and with honest principle. Some, at the same time, maintained the *ton de la vielle cour* so rigidly, that I knew a necessitous marquis who still kept up three establishments, viz. his wife and daughter in Titchfield Street, his own garret in Jermyn Street, St. James's, and Madame *sa maitresse*, in a lodging in the *Borough*.

I state all this without meaning any disparagement to the *noblesse française*, and still less with an idea of detracting

from the infinite attractions of a French woman. Her resources in love are inexhaustible, various as the flowers of the garden, and powerful as the spell of an enchantress: every thing, *chez elle*, is delicacy and sentiment, interest and amusement, playfulness and eloquence. Defects are so adorned, that they seem only the necessary shades to bring forth the lights more splendidly; caprice is variety; desire, impulse; flattery, the soothing sounds of feeling; vice, *une erreur de la nature*; change, irresistible *penchant*. The wanderings of a lover seem like a waking dream in an earthly paradise; the deviations from rigid duty, like the arch tricks of Cupid's infantine amusements. One frail fair will tell you, "*Je nai qu'un défaut,*

j'ai l'ame trop sensible :" another ill-mated bride will inform you, "*J'étais faite pour aimer :*" but between her heart and her husband's, "*Helas ! il n'y a point d'intelligence.*"

These soft lessons sink very deep into a young mind, or into a heart that has been softened and heated by disappointment. Mine was in that state ; and the comtesse made a deep but not a lasting impression. It must be acknowledged that our countrymen and women made a great progress in the *art* of love during the emigration. And now a few words respecting the Comtesse Marguerite, the very pearl of all mistresses.

She was beautiful to a *fault* ; for she was a complete statue. The incense of adoration had so long been burned before her, that she had assumed the goddess in every look, gesture, and action. The soft sounds of flattery had so beguiled her ear, that she could not exist without them. Admiration she claimed as her due ; whilst she commanded hearts with all the tyranny of a sovereign over the destinies of man. Such was her immeasurable pride, that friendship appeared too mean a sentiment for her breast ; whilst slavery, not love, was the portion of her admirers. She, like a certain duke's daughter, would pass whole hours before her mirror, adjusting her

dresses, and passing her allurements and attractions in review ; studying ornaments and inventing dresses ; consulting Grecian statues and drawings by way of models ; and even hanging wet drapery on her lovely form, in order to copy more closely those works which sprung from the Grecian chissel, She would practise attitudes, and force smiles, in order to win the unwary heart ; and if you surprised her at her four hours' toilet, she would unblushingly bid you idolize her ; and, stretching out her snowy hand, condescend to order you to kiss it, saying—*Tenez, mon ami, faites votre bonheur.*

A heart thus given up to self-love could not be divided ; neither did she

consider man in any other light than as a being destined to be devoted to her wishes ; to attend her orders, to minister to her pleasures, to support her extravagance, and to be obedient to her will. Woman, thus formed, is a creature without resource in our troubles, without value in our society, without mind in every transaction of life. Studied looks, practised graces, nugatory conversation, affected airs, cold smiles, and unmeaning ceremonials, compose the whole tenor of her conduct ; the whole artificial manœuvres which mark her behaviour. A hand hung down to be admired, an ankle protruded below tasteful drapery to attract the eye and to inflame desire, a lock removed to improve the grace of her polished brow,

or better to shew the elegant turn of her shoulder—these were her arts, these were all her accomplishments; and it might be said of her, as Lord Archibald H—— said of another celebrated beauty, when asked if he had ever seen her: “Yes,” replied he, “I have seen the animal; for woman I cannot call her.” How different the female who is all feeling, all susceptibility, whose heart keeps the promise which her eye has made; whose varied and uncertain hue bespeaks exquisite sensibility; whose warm cheek glows with affection, and paints every honest passion of the breast; whose softness melts at love’s ray, and whose attachment and adherence are blended with her very existence. But such was *not* the

Countess. She would not have discomposed the dimple near her bewitching lip by rude laughter; nor have furrowed the blossom of her cheek with a tear for all the world. Feeling she held beneath her superiority of person; and I can truly aver that she lived for herself alone. In the few fleeting months in which she effected my ruin, I had made no more progress in her affections than in the first days of my ridiculous idolatry. She received, whilst at Naples, overtures from a richer lover; and she accepted them with disdainful condescension.

Away with such beauties! What must old age be to such a character, when broken smiles and altered looks,

dim eyes and unelastic form; lost attractions and decayed graces, appear to her in her looking-glass? Age must be to her like the valley of death; her end must be that of self-contempt and wretchedness. Marguerite, having neglected mind during her youth, was ignorant of every thing except the arts of the toilette and the frivolity of the tête-à-tête. Her temper was ambitious, fickle, capricious, irritable, and unforgiving. Without a friend, she knew only admirers in our sex; and in her own she numbered only unsuccessful jealous rivals.

She had been married at sixteen; and had parted with her husband from an *affaire de galanterie* in three years

afterwards. The sad, contemptible, un-intellectual remnant of her life she had devoted to adorning her person, and to intrigue, commenced from pure vanity, and for the purpose of procuring a greater share of luxury and of eclat than she otherwise could have enjoyed. Her own sex she detested ; of our's she made a convenience. Such was the last woman who ever deceived me ; such the object for whom I committed my last amatory follies : and although I may have appeared to paint her in too glowing colours, the resemblance is only faithful to the original.

Previously to my quitting England, I wound up all my money concerns ; paid my debts, and settled the remnant

of my fortune on the fair partner of my travels : so completely was I, at that time, fascinated by her charms. I gave my farewell dinner to a large party ; the most prominent characters of which were the Marquis of Headstrong, Lord Deaf, Sir James Jessamy, Harry Democrat, and Mr. Felix Flourish, of the Life Guards. I only mention these few, just to introduce a few additional hints on the state of society at that period, and at the same time to show the great contrast of the last two characters.

CHAPTER VI.

WHAT a piece of work is man ! The Marquis of Headstrong is a little, mean, tailor-like looking man, formed by nature to move on a very humble stage of life ; and to be a decent, quiet, good sort of domestic animal ; a husband for some plain tradeswoman, and a thing to vegetate in the shade. But capricious fashion has thrust him into notice, and chance has elevated him to one of the highest ranks in society ; while the *mater sæva cupidinum* has bedeviled him into a man of notorious

gallantry, and has stuck him up in print *as large as life* at the head of crim. con. concerns, thereby inflaming his vanity at the expense of his pocket, and swelling him into a character. Of Lord Deaf, and Sir James, what was said of a certain lord, who owes much of his notoriety to *a horse* named Pot & o's. might, perhaps, serve well enough for their biography.

“ Why put 00000000 to lengthen out a name,
“ When *one* sums up your learning, wit, and
fame ?”

But to this we may also add, that the former was *deaf* to sound reason in politics, and *blind* to his own defects ; proud, yet democratic ; stern in principle, yet abandoned in point of gal-

lantry ; a would-be speaker, but for his inability to hear the other party, and his obstinacy in believing that he knew every thing ; and a would-be sage, if he could have been such without controuling his passions.

Sir James was a gazetted fop, the shade of all great men on whose arm he could lean ; and a walking register and court calendar of peers and peeresses, births, deaths, marriages, and faux pas—of the last cut of a coat, or of a fresh cyprian started on the race-course of infamy.

The Marquis *lived on the Town* ; the peer was attached to another man's wife—a most steady, firm, and *respect-*

able attachment! Sir James had been made a *Knight of the Crescent* by his lady; whilst the other two were, the one divorced by his wife, the other under the absolute and tyrannical government of a motherly mistress. The greatest contrasts were Flourish and Democrat.

Democrat was a natural son, possessed of ten thousand pounds per annum. He had married a lord's daughter from pride; but, since that period, the French revolution having revolutionized many a weak mind, his head had been turned, and his heart had been corrupted, by false notions, low associates, and by the abilities of a reprobate companion. With him

would he pass whole nights *exhaling* tobacco, and *inhaling* the poison of *mobocracy*, listening to the feats of the republican army, the natural enemies of his country, and predicting the fall of the British empire, triumphing in any calamity that might attend the mother country, yet styling himself a patriot of the first class, or politician of the first intellect. Through the haze of drink, and the influence of blue devils, he could perceive that the British constitution was rotten to the very core; that corruption had crept into every member of the national representation, into every office and department of the state; he could *most lucidly* descry the ruin and defeat of our armies, the humiliation

and annihilation of our invincible flag; he *knew* that it must strike to the power of the tri-coloured ensign; that invasion must succeed, the Bank break, the national debt be rubbed off with a sponge, and a *new order of things* be created; when old forms, laws, rules, customs, religious nonsense (as he was pleased to call it), and trumpery honours and distinctions would be *done away with*.

It will naturally be asked if Citizen Harry, with his Brutus head and bonnet rouge, was a plain dealing honest man, with humility enough to treat his family, his tenants, and his servants, as his equals, and to behave towards them as if they were his

brethren or children—if he was famed for extensive charity, and for meliorating the state of the people so far as was in his power? *Point du tout*; he was a bad husband, a harsh landlord, an unfeeling master, a proud ambitious man. He thought that he perceived in himself, and in his friends, Dantons, Robespierres, Garrats, Marats, &c. And it might have been very convenient to have had a faithful translation of the French tragedy, *then so popular in France*, performed at home; only that his *comprehensive* views did not calculate on the *last scene*, or the *catastrophe* which awaited these ensanguined actors.

As he was very fond of hearing

himself speak, he soon took a lead in conversation, and attacked his greatest contrast, Felix Flourish, the moment that he entered the room. "How are you, citizen Felix? I saw you the other day, decked in the gaudy trappings of slavery, like a May-day sweep, all dirt and gold, attending on the man who is our chief magistrate, and trampling on our brethren, the people, trenching on their rights, and driving them before your pampered war horse." "Really," replied the other, "my good Sir! and I saw you surrounded by your fellow-citizens, those men of blood called drovers and butchers, and by the male and female active citizens, who are *candidates* for a seat in Newgate or in the Magdalen.

You looked very comfortable, and *quite at home* : did you gain any thing by the *liberty of the press* on that occasion ? Perhaps you brought away with you an emblematical and *lively* representation of freedom in the *minor* animals, whose *popular course runs in the people's heads*." Here a loud laugh ensued ; but it were in vain and endless to detail the many hits which these acquaintances made at each other ; and, strange to tell, such was the good humour of the latter, that citizen Harry could not help liking him after all.

Mr. Flourish was an instance of the folly of transplanting a native plant too early to a foreign soil, since it

always gives an unnatural and often a destructive bent to it, through its future life. He had been wholly educated in France ; and, although a very young man, was completely an aristocrat of the ancient regime. He was driven home by the revolution, and forced to remain there on account of the progress of the invading armies of the French republic on the continent. He had been intended for a diplomatic life, but being early priest-ridden, he was disqualified ; and he entered the household troops of his own country, merely for the sake of a gold-laced coat, and the happiness of being admired by the ladies.

Felix had a small fortune, but an

enormous establishment, not the *least* part of which was an *in-folio French edition* of a mistress, “fat, fair, and forty-five.” This was at the time a most *princely* thing; and, doubtless, it was on that account, for he looked *very high*, that his taste was thus decided: since then *times* have *greatly* improved, and “soft, soothing, and sixty-six,” is the order of the day, the most *courtly* thing imaginable.

It would be difficult to delineate young Flourish’s principles. Suavity, ease, and high polish, seemed to be the objects of his ambition. He troubled not himself about politics or revolutions, provided his toilette and his table went on well. He wore his studied

placid smile quite undisturbed. He respected every man's taste and caprice; he excused every one's vices; was an apologist for frail woman, let her do what she would: amiable weakness, misplaced confidence, exquisite sensibility, fatal impulse, irresistible attraction, unfortunate error and juvenile indiscretion, explained away and adorned all the wanderings of human nature: thus he gilded over with polite, social, and studied eloquence, all the bad example and irregularities of society; and to this he used to add the seasoning of a little lady-like wit, or piquancy of remark *à la Française*, by which he became admired and well received in all the highest circles.

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A being, so gaudy, so gay, and so confined, could not be expected to exhibit much force or permanence. He was the mere vapour of his day, existing under the sun-beam of fashion; so that he melted and disappeared in three years, leaving no trace of his wealth or his preponderance. Even in the airy circle, it would not astonish any one who knew him to find him like *Father Gerambo*, a monk in some monastic part of the continent.

The fate of his opponent democrat was far different. Disappointed in the unsuccessfulness of his politics, at the downfall of the Hydra of France, at the migration to America, or the execution

of his political associates, deprived of a beautiful but unfaithful wife, to whom he had taught that marriage is but a civil contract, and that religion is a mere bug-bear, held out to the credulous, in order to restrain the people from enforcing their rights; deserted by the miscreants who fed on the fullness of his means, and despised by men of rational lives; ruined in his constitution, and encumbered in his pecuniary concerns, he snarls and complains in a retirement for which his heart and his habits have unfitted him; and, betwixt the intervals that the agonies of the gout and of dispeptia leave him, he passes his time in *perfecting* himself in the principles and in the practice of misanthropy. So altered a man, so

wretched a wreck of what republicanism run mad can effect, I never have seen, though many have been her victims in the last half century.

It is, perhaps, no small art now-a-days to suit one's conversation to one's company: it requires a thorough knowledge not of books, nor of men, but of what we arbitrarily call *the world*, or rather the *fashionables* in society; for what would be most welcome to a man's ear at one time, is a death-blow at another; and the only chance of avoiding offence is by being so much a *town-man*, as to know every man and woman of fashion's face; and not only the features which compose *it*, but the leading features of their characters, together

with the *recent* changes and adventures of their lives.

I repeat it, that what was yesterday music to the ear, may, to-day, bring the blush of conviction to the cheek, and, by wounding the feelings of an individual, embitter the joys of a whole assembly.

For these important reasons, I thought it necessary to inform the Reverend Quintus Quiz—my old companion at college, and a *useful man*—that female virtue was a sore subject to one of my guests; that political integrity or consistency was a ticklish article to another; that fair play was a direct accusation to a third; and bas tardy a theme to be studiously avoided

with a fourth; that religion would bring upon us a disgusting tirade from Harry Democrat; and that the exposure of legal impositions and mal-practices would ruin me with a man whom I had asked to promote my views in raising a little ready cash, previous to my embarkation for the continent.

“What then,” said he, very properly, “must a man talk of? Religion and morality will give offence; science is beyond your friends’ comprehension; physic would doubtless be a *drug*; and law is forbidden, as you observe: literature would, I am convinced, be deemed dry; and politics, you say, will breed dissention.” I informed him, that fashion, scandal, if not connected

with the persons present, drinking, wenching, dogs, and horses, would suit every palate. But as the reverend was above these subjects, he was a speechless guest during the whole of the evening.

Our conversation during dinner ran on the town-talk of the day:—how many divorces, exchanges, and exposés had taken place in the last year in connubial life; how a certain duchess had been deceived in the confidence which she placed in a noble lord, then commanding a regiment raised by himself: how a certain gallant German princess, mother to a certain peer, had, in her old age, *not* given up her juvenile indiscretions; how much it was

the tendency of private theatricals to relax the morals; how the princess in question had paid Count F——'s debts, and supported his extravagance.

Then were discussed, in succession, the correspondence between the Count de Belzun and Miss F., since married to a peer; the count's ungallant threats of exposing their connexion, and suing her for a breach of promise; the pretty bargain which she would be to any husband who might venture on her for a wife, large as was her fortune; the mysterious connexion of a lord high in office at court; a *barber-an's* report in the palace; a Fitzroy made the talk of the ladies; a domestic rupture in the *highest scene* of life, and the

introduction of a viper near the ear of a husband ; how German ladies ate beef-steaks and onions, drank, waltzed, exposed their substantial charms, and were guilty of other levities much disapproved of at a British court ; the gallantry of Lady E., and her subsequent marriage with Mr. M., *cum multis aliis*, which have since lost much of their interest.

We then discussed the subject of annuities, of gaming, and of horse-racing. On the first subject much light was thrown by a fellow-sufferer. He said, that the annuitants and attornies were locusts, who destroyed their fellow-creatures by scores. The latter being only anxious for a job, re-

commended a young man of deranged fortune, or of good expectations; the ease of raising money in this speedy way was an encouragement to his extravagance; he raised one annuity after another until his encumbrances doubled in a very short time; then the impossibility to pay the interest of sixteen per cent. out of an income, made it necessary to raise other annuities merely to pay that interest: and thus did he proceed, from one step to another, until utter ruin was inevitable. The annuitant, on his part, was doubling his capital in six years, and reaping the sweets of his usury ever after; inso-much, that the basest, the vilest individuals, *menials*, and low mechanics, rose by these annuities, in a few years,

into overgrown fortunes. A Mr. C. had twenty thousand per annum in annuities only ; and a ci-devant footman, who dabbled in that way, has got himself into a public office of emolument, and into a kind of high life, which must surprise himself as well as all those who know him.

The facility, indeed, which these modes of lending money affords, from the high interest which they produce, has stimulated many a varlet, in livery lace, to help himself in his master's wardrobe and pantry, to reduce his cellar, and to play booty with tradespeople, in order to have a few hundreds to let out at the aforesaid sixteen per cent. to their master's acquaintances,

and even to their masters, under a brother-in-law's, or some relation's name. Thus may a nobleman, or a man of fashion, have a chance of being let in by a porter who is his creditor, or of having a livery servant stand behind his chair with his indenture tripartite in his pocket: thus, also, one runs the risk of being *nabbed* for interest due to one's hair-dresser, or taken in execution by the cook after dining unsuspectingly at my lord's table. House-keepers have a particular taste for this little traffic, as a means of retiring upon their petty household frauds.

No wonder, then, that dusters, dish-cloths, linen lost and worn out, should come to some hundreds per

annum, as it actually did, to a deceased friend of mine, not far from Wentworth Castle; nor that my valet de chambre should have robbed me of linen and silk stockings to a great extent annually; whilst my groom used to bring me in quarterly bills of twenty, thirty, and more pounds, for inere curry combs and mops for cleaning my horses and carriages.

The honorable Mr. B—— thought, however, very differently on all these subjects. He swore that Jews, gamblers, and attorneys, were just as useful as any other animals; foxes, badgers, and ferrets to wit; for that they all alike were beasts who preyed on part of the

creation, whilst they afforded sport to men in high life in their turn ; nay, they were sometimes hunted and run down too, for the biter was sometimes bit ; and how could a gentleman pursue his amusements without such cattle ? He accordingly proposed as a toast, “ sporting, gaming, drinking, and extravagance, usury and gallantry in all their bearings, with every other kind of fashionable pastime.” A lord by courtesy, enquired whether cheating or arresting were to be included, since each had proved an involuntary *passa tempo* to his lordship more than once. The amendment was negatived without a division ; and horse-racing came next on the tapis, introduced by the sale of my stud.

From many things that had occurred during my experience on the turf, I was convinced that plain sailing is not the order of the day in this amusement. A departed duke certainly won honorably by weight of purse—the best way of *carrying weight* at Newmarket; but others had more resources than one; and I absolutely detected one of my jockies wilfully losing a race; besides having discovered many little tricks too tedious and too contemptible to mention.

We lastly came to gambling, when the Beehive and Joey Chanticleer came up; and it was *clear* that Joey's singing *notes* were not those which produced the greatest pecuniary value, but that the industry of the *hive* collected

more *sweets* than either his military or his harmonic performances. Joey had *swelled* in consequence and in feather since first I met him at Sir John Jehu's. My accomplished friend was the next subject of conversation. He was gone to a new house near Salisbury, which he won at play of a youngster, whom he kept in tow for three years, and then pillaged him in one day of twenty thousand pounds ! His scheme was a complete system of plunder ; " another edition of Rapine," as the witty counsellor Curran said, when asked what would be the most perfect and impartial history which could be written of Ireland.

But to return to my ruinous acquaintance : independent of long experience,

deep penetration, a perfect knowledge of gaming, and the absence of all feeling, added to courage and unblushing insolence, he had so many wiles and stratagems for the incautious, that it was almost impossible to escape him. He kept a stud groom at three hundred per annum, who went round the country purchasing horses at low prices, young horses blemished, or bargains which the honorable master re-sold often at three hundred per cent. profit. Then he got intelligence of every young man who was *in the market*, through procurers and money-lenders. After getting acquainted with him, and being high in his confidence, he sacrificed him at play, either directly at private gaming, or indirectly by some one whom he got to play with him ; some-

times by a double or a throw over. When ready money could not be obtained, he cashed his victim's bill, or melted his security by the aid of a *soi disant* coal-merchant or tradesman; and he went halves in the usurious contract. Finally, when he deserted a mistress, he used to *put her up*, and get her to invite men to her house, where she gave play, in which her former protector always had a feeling. By all these various devices, did this character support a splendid establishment upon a most trifling patrimonial income. His history, in detail, would fill a volume in quarto; but it may be abridged to two lines most applicable to him, in which many of his victims will join most cordially.

“ Nommez le fourbe infame et scelerat maudit,

“ Tout le monde en convient; personne n'y contredit.”

And here, whilst on this eventful and perilous subject, it may be a wholesome advice for youngsters, to learn that *Greeking* is not confined to high life *only*, nor to the turf and the gaming table. In the sportsman's field, and in the merry chase, "*Latet anguis in herbá.*" There are men of fashion, well-born men too, who make a point of going out with the hounds, not for the common game which a Nimrod has in view, the destruction of a stag or hare, but for the purpose of *fortune-hunting* ; of *tagging* the youth of property ; and running down his prosperity. Dinners branch out from these jolly meetings ; and the best mounted man is, perhaps, nothing but a *cavalry Greek*, one of the *black cohort*, who takes care to hire an elegant shooting or hunting

box, near a pack of hounds, and has confederates to assist in plucking the pigeon when inflamed by the joys and fatigues of the chase ; and when his reason is subdued by friendship and by wine.

Thus are our very sympathies turned to our ruin, by the artful and designing ; and a young man full of honor and confidence, warm with manly vigour and social feeling, surrenders that confidence to a *brother* sportsman, who is nothing but a second *Sinon*, a hostile *Greek* in disguise. Sometimes a consummate *Greek* will keep hounds, and hunt with a man a whole season ; and will wait until experience has confirmed his victim in a good opinion of him, when he will invite him to his house in

town, or set up a sham dinner lost at a race, a trotting match, or the performance of a favorite dog ; and, then and there, sacrifice the partial companion of many a hard day's sport, the associate of many a festive hour. Nay, even in durance vile, will a *flash* bailiff introduce a needy *Greek*, under pretence of being in a similar scrape ; and, as

“ Friends in distress

“ Make misery the less,”

here again a sympathetic feeling is created, confidence inspired, mutual aid and regard expressed ; when, behold ! wine is called for ; then cards or dice ; money is won according to the party's necessity ; a show of negligence as to payment is studiously affected, and skilfully performed ; but, when the real prisoner is enlarged, the other pretends

to find bail also, adjourns to a coffee-house, has a stamp in due form, and it is twenty to one but the effect thereof brings the dupe back again to *quod* : for the *Greek*, the bill-doer, the attorney, and the bailiff, are all in copartnership ; and from such allies what can be expected, but ruin and disgrace.

Females carrying on the Grecian war are particularly dangerous, for they are doubly armed. Often the admirer of beauty is so dazzled, that his losses at play are accounted as nothing, until their magnitude awakens the pigeon from his dream of delight ; and, generally, it is then too late. Calypsos likewise play personally and by proxy ; having, moreover, the resource of borrowing money to pay their own

losses, which, by the bye, are always returned to the *decoy*, whether male or female, by the firm of the bank. These loans are always negotiated on *personal* security ; and it is easily conceived what *tender* and *slender* interest they bear ; and how they are repaid. Throwing a property into Chancery is a mere joke to these parties. In those days, a great brewer supported a gaming-table, *dans le royaume de Cythère* ; and a landholder and M.P. from the north had funds in a *female firm* of the same nature. . Wha a bottom to trade on ! here was also a *chicken* hazard table, a *deux pins*, in Covent Garden, where *hens* and *chickens*, *rooks* and *pigeons*, filled up the *menagerie*. Luckily, these things are now *du mauvais ton* ; but trade is car-

ried on more extensively in the *hells* about the St. James's end of the town ; and in male parties, where greeking is very *manfully* performed.

I have, perhaps, dwelt a little too long on this subject ; but it is one which was once *very dear to me* ; and happy should I be if my young reader would learn *gratis* a lesson which has cost me above twenty thousand pounds, not including usury, lawyers' bills, John Doe's proportion of plunder, the robbery of jockies, of servants, of horse-dealers, and money pimps ; loans, losses, and " friends remembering *not*."

Ere I quit the subject entirely, I shall subjoin a friend's diary, which will show, that whilst one pigeon may be

picked and mauled all his life by pigeon-fanciers, another may be snapt up at a meal, to fill the hollow tooth of a *Greek*, and never more be heard of in the world. Many a young man's fairest prospects have thus vanished with one setting sun, and never risen more above the horizon of darkest obscurity.

JACK RAPID'S DIARY.

Got in debt at the university ; duns d——d troublesome ; obtained a curacy, however ; but father dead, and uncle refused to wipe off my old scores, being so frequently applied to on false pretences. Tradesmen won't wait. Saw an advertisement in the papers from a liberal man, who professed to lend money in the speediest manner, on personal security, to young men of good

expectations, and with the utmost honor and secrecy ; ticked up to town in a chaise and four with Jack Spendall and Harry Hearty ; agreed to join all three together in raising three thousand pounds, being all deep in the mire at the time ; went to A. B. found him the most civil gentleman in the world ; he called in the afternoon on us, and brought a venerable looking old gentleman, with white hair, and a strong box under his arm ; the old gentleman lent us three thousand six hundred, instead of three thousand pounds : how good of him ! paid a lawyer and Mr. A. B. who was only a middle man and agent betwixt us, three hundred pounds of the money ; had heard of a lady by the name of W—— ; thought that we should like to

see her ; got drunk ; vastly pleased with *the family* ; had heard of hells ; curiosity prompted us to look into one ; a cursed place ; lost about three hundred, all we had in our pockets, having locked up all the rest at the hotel ; met with a delightful young gentleman at one of the hells, who had lost his money also ; great sympathy amongst us ; he treated us to supper in Bond Street ; had burned Champagne after supper for the first time in my life ; almost made me mad ; broke lamps, got beaten to a mummy, and all three put in the watch-house ; had also my pocket picked of my gold watch, pencil, and tooth-pick case ; sick as hell, but encouraged by the young gentleman who called this *life* ; paid forty pounds amongst us for breaking the peace ; got out, asked the

young gentleman to dinner ; got drunk again, friends ditto ditto ; studied a plan of calculation brought by the agreeable stranger, who told us that he had an estate of two thousand a-year, by which, and by dint of money, we four united, could break any faro bank in the world ; had bought a lottery ticket that morning at the *lucky office* ; all in fortune's way ; secure that we would *do the Greeks* ; at 'em again ; won at first, myself the favourite ; to 'em again and again ; luck changed ; lost every guinea which we possessed, and had not enough to pay our bill at the hotel ; my companions melted their clothes and valuables, and we returned outside of the stage ; got down three miles from home ; moreover caught a *cold* ; which made me remember the *Merry Wives*

of Windsor ; bought a box full of medicine, by the direction of an advertisement in the papers ; sent one Sunday for my sermon box ; the clerk got into *the wrong box* ; blew me all over the neighbourhood ; was clapped in the county jail for my debts ; lost my living ; also Tom Spendall's friendship, for he had my annuity to pay ; sold a reversionary property for an old song, in order to enable me to pay a part ; passed three years in prison ; went off to the continent as a volunteer. N. B. Harry Hearty's friends paid his debts and sent him to the West Indies, in order to get rid of him, which they have effectually done, new rum and the climate *having done the job* for them.

Mutato nomine, this story is literally true; and, in another instance, upon a smaller scale, a lieutenant in the fusileers shared the same fate by three days sojourning in the neighbourhood of Covent Garden with a certain baronet. The former lost the price of his commission, and contracted a malady, of which, after being a spectacle to mankind, and lingering out a few years of loathsome existence, he died. The baronet only lost his money, but, in consequence of this circumstance, never perfectly recovered his spirits.

The remainder of our evening was spent with the utmost hilarity. Mrs. O. H. was given as a toast, being a great belle of the day; and we had a dish of scandal respecting the Honorable Mrs.

T. a theatrical character. Her amours with the late Mr. H. who betrayed his friend, her husband, were expatiated on, whilst Mr. Juniper, M.P. the distiller, was laughed at as her dupe, and Sir Samuel Specific quoted as her favourite. Every one blamed the errors of another; well aware, that when his back was turned, he would next be the subject of animadversion. I, who was the founder of the feast, could easily perceive that my *good friends* did not spare me in my absence; and when the question was put to me, by a *merveilleux* of the first order, whether the Countess was to migrate with me, I overheard a whisper of “*Je lui en fais mon compliment,*” and I perceived an ill-concealed significant smile on more than one countenance. The night was

far advanced, and when we parted, I was greeted with many adieus, and with many good wishes, the sincerity of which I have since doubted. Lord —— begged his respects to the countess, which, when I delivered, she very calmly replied, “ *Ce pauvre milord!—c’est un assez bon diable.*” Since then I have understood better what his *respects* meant; but *n’importe*. Our feast was ended, and I was not sorry for it. I returned to my couch, and made many a reflection, which told me, that

“ With a heigh ho! to the green holly;

“ All friendship is feigning; most love’s a mere folly.”

I now prepared to quit England; and, as the most unlooked-for changes occurred during my absence, it may not perhaps be amiss to mention the status

quo in which matters then stood ; for, when I returned, every thing appeared to me *en masquerade* ; countenances and opinions had changed ; politics and religions assumed quite different features ; and I almost thought myself at the carnival in Venice, or in a waking dream. The rich were ruined ; the ragged and poor had grown rich and proud ; the young looked old, and the old had grown young again ; bald foreheads were thatched with a thick growth of hair ; grey locks outrivalled the raven in jetty polish ; sinners affected to be saints ; and the sweetest saints I ever saw had fallen like stars, which set to rise no more.

Above all, religious and political apostacies had taken place beyond all

possibility of conception or calculation. Then was the highest star in the political firmament a decided whig; Fox and Burke were the models of his principles; a Lord D—— was a constitutionalist, who has *ratted* twice since; Lady J—— was the court belle of the day—now a neglected grandmother; Lady G—— was quoted for the most abandoned of women—now giving lectures of morality as a general's wife; Lady M——b——h was in the bloom of beauty—now faded, and the most *liberal* pattern of love and friendship of the age; the insipid Dandy B—— had scarcely put on his regimentals in the Tenth, much less had he assumed a rank and eminence in life which his weaker companions have allowed him to borrow from his tailor, his stay-

maker, and his perfumer; which loan, it is generally thought, has not been repaid to this very moment.

In those days, the Princess of Madagascar had not run off to *Holland*; nor had Lady B—— deviated the paths of virtue; and the harp of our fashionable bards was mute and unstrung. The Pegasus of the Lakes was free and unbridled in his course; nor were the laureat's prospects gilded with the rays of the rising sun—since then, however, his flights of fancy have been tamed; he has become the meekest hackney of a royal stable, and former friendships have been bought and sold, whilst former times have been forgotten, and lost sight of.

The public prints also partook of the general metamorphoses, which a few fleeting years effected in a most wonderful manner. At that period, the most servile prints, the *Post and Courier*, were most violently anti-ministerial: the former *posted* every placeman and pensioner; and the latter was the *avant courier* of every mischief, outrunning the opposition, and out-stepping all bounds of propriety. Colonel G— was *then* counted *sterling*, nor had he dirtied his hands with the bee-hive, or any other gaming co-partnership; the Duke of R—, now battered and burned out with liquor, was in his prime; and those who now calumniate a certain great character idolized his very name. But I ought to have known that the Italian proverb of

Uno in piazza

Altro in palazzo

holds every where ; and that place and pension, countenance and court favor, can make a man, who has seen *tout en noir*, view every thing *en couleur de rose*.

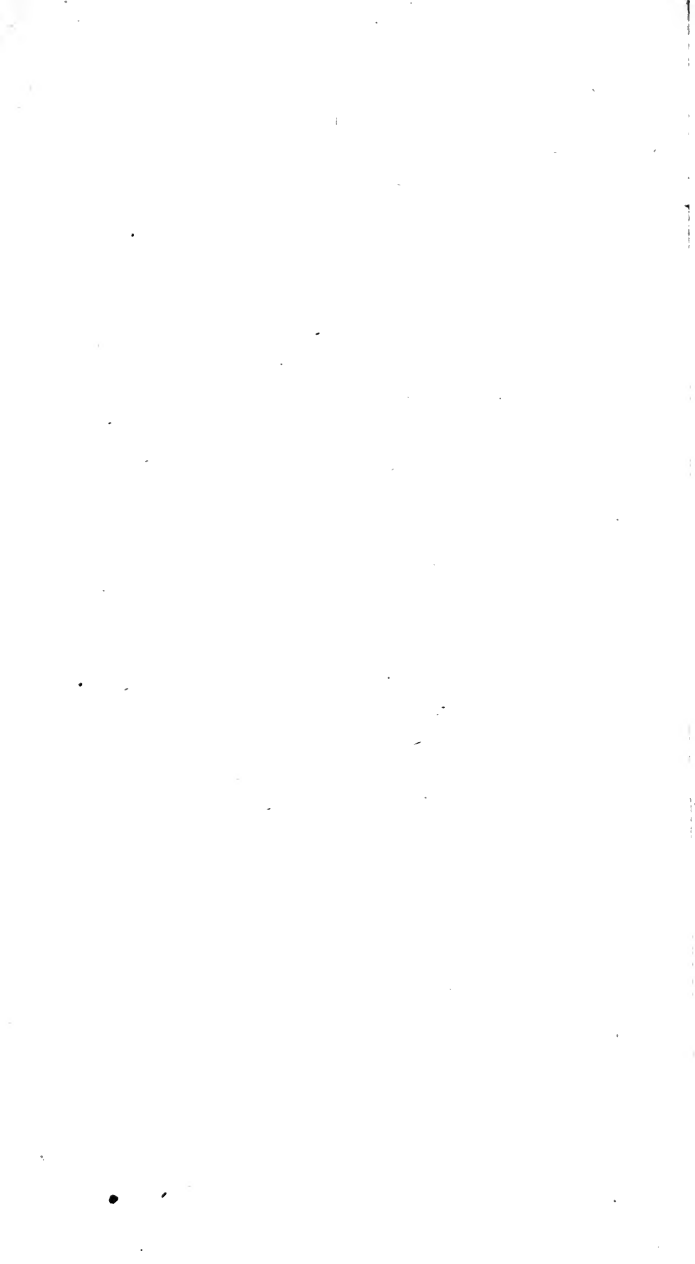
I now left town, and arrived at Portsmouth, whence I was to embark. We sailed with a favoring gale. My *charmante comtesse* seemed intent on charming every one but myself, depending on her conquest of me ; and, like all tyrants, only eager for further extent of dominion. To strangers, she was smiling, alluring, mild, and captivating ; to me, tiresome, complaining, affected, distant, capricious, fretful, peevish, and changeful as the came-

leon. The captain of the vessel (my particular friend) was all attention to us both; and I have been led to think that his *politesse* to madame continued beyond our voyage, and had something more in view than mere civilities to friends and sharers in his hospitality. Our voyage was short and prosperous; and we landed safe, at *Livorno*, on a beautiful day, and in good health and spirits.

END OF VOL. I.

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